

Reopening Task Force Committee Notes

June 26, 2020: 10:00am – 11:00am

Attendees: Rick Harris, Paul LaMarca, Samantha Fredrickson, Laura Hutchinson, Leslie Allfree, Irene Payne, David Hartshorn, Dina Ciaramella, Elizabeth Sexton, Erika Ryst, Joe Maez, Jeff Brasel, Jim Verdi, Kellie Carney, Kiemmy Boc, Lana Bell, Laurel Inuma, Laurel Kerr, Jackie James, Lianka Soliz, Margaret Allen, Mark Mathers, Maureen Wander, Max Coppes, Melissa Gillis, Rick Martin, Roy Anderson, Adam Searcy, Katherine Loudon, Ann Silver, Sharon Kennedy, Tiffany Young, Tom Stauss, Stacey Ting, Tami Goulden

Notetaker: Jen Caldwell

Welcome and Agenda Review:

Sharon Kennedy started off the meeting by giving kudos to the group for all the amazing work done at the June 23rd board meeting.

June 23rd BOT debrief:

Paul LaMarca and Rick Harris briefed the group on the board meeting. Stated that the structure of items might have been a bit confusing for the Trustees, but that they have moved forward with all items and now we are in crunch time.

July 7th BOT:

Paul LaMarca is working on a few drafts for the upcoming board meeting – some content will remain the same as from the last meeting, but there will also be some new content/changes. He is currently working on updating the Decision Matrix and will send it out to the committee as soon as it is completed.

Paul informed the group that the State is now requiring every school to have a plan in place which includes all 3 possible learning models: full in-person instructional process, a hybrid process and a full distance learning process. The materials for these different models are being worked on – deadline to have materials sent to the Board of Trustees is July 2nd. Drafts of all the materials will be shared with the committee as soon as they are approved by leadership.

Health Department meeting – June 25th:

Margaret Allen provided a general summary of the meeting that took place with the Health Department on June 25th. She stated that they are reviewing all current outbreak practices and processes and updating them to include and COVID-related changes. She also mentioned that

in the upcoming school year that WCSD will need to work very closely with WCHD with reporting sick numbers (staff and students) to assist with contact tracing.

Jeff Brasel with the WCHD added that they will be building on the successes of prior processes and make adaptations as needed for COVID in “actual time” and continue to adjust procedures accordingly.

Margaret Allen shared the importance of practicing social distancing – current numbers reflect that individuals have let their guards down and we need to work diligently as a group to practice this. She mentioned that they have received good guidance from our local physician groups and we are working together to provide common messaging throughout the community.

Rick Harris stated that he has received a lot of great feedback from the Central Services Return to Work document – they will be discussing it again at the COVID meeting this afternoon (6/26) and he will send it to our committee by Monday.

Tom Stauss shared the preliminary data from the survey, stating that results have shown that approximately 55% of staff have some expectation and are in favor of temperature monitoring. Dr. Coppes commented that measuring temperature need to start at home. If students/staff are not self-screening before they get to the school, it is already too late once they have stepped onto campus. He reiterated the importance of having the responsibility of temperature monitoring on the parents.

Paul LaMarca stated that our processes will be a multi-layered approach that will likely include temperature monitoring from home but that all self-screening steps need to be taken, not only taking temperatures.

Sharon Kennedy stated that the district will need to review the current attendance policy – current absentee numbers/requirements are held over families’ heads – we need to clearly message that we will work with families in regards to absences.

Joe Maez stated that in Washoe County, half of the reported COVID cases are from Hispanic individuals and stated the importance of reaching out to this population with clear messaging. Paul LaMarca informed the group that all materials will be translated into Spanish and we will be working with our Spanish media outlets as well. Tiffany Young stated that our district has many English-speaking Hispanics and suggested that we work closely with our local churches to help reaching out to this population.

Report out by subcommittees:

Laura Hutchinson spoke on behalf of the **Vulnerable Populations subcommittee**. She shared a document which outlines all of the steps the committee has taken thus far including: identifying categories of vulnerable populations, creating a working document identifying considerations for each population in school scenarios, gathering data for each population, using all of the information to select the best school opening scenario for each population and lastly ranking each with the best school opening scenario for the Fall of 2020. This document was emailed to the committee at the end of the meeting.

Katherine Loudon spoke on behalf of the **Models Pros/Cons subcommittee**. She stated that this group is on hold now and has no new information to share.

Leslie Allfree spoke on behalf of the **Screening subcommittee**. This group is also in a holding pattern. They have submitted documents to Rick Harris and Paul LaMarca and are waiting further direction.

Roy Anderson spoke on behalf of the **PPE subcommittee**. This group met on June 25th and decided they would like to make some more adjustments to their order for face coverings (77,000) and face shields (23,000). They would also like to use the \$12,000 previously allocated for N-95 masks and use that money toward gowns and more intensive masks of a different type. This change would be budget neutral, they are just seeking approval. Leslie Allfree stated that they have used feedback from local physicians in determining which have a higher protection rate, coverings vs. shields and that social distancing still plays a major role in preventing the spread of COVID.

Laura Hutchinson provided the group with some feedback they have received in regards to which option is best for different vulnerable populations, face coverings vs face shields. In many cases, they have found that face shields would be better for groups such as those with: sensory/behavioral/health/speech issues as well as individuals that speak English as a Second Language (ESL) or that are in early childhood programs or K-5th grade. She stated that their group is being very cognizant of inequality issues when making decisions.

Joe Maez shared his opinion regarding the importance of teachers taking more action in the upcoming school year when it comes to determining signs & symptoms in their students and not disregarding “sniffles” as something minor but bringing all cases to the attention of the school nurse. Laura Hutchinson stated that it will be difficult for teachers to identify symptoms in students if they have face coverings on – as well as the challenge of identifying the whole child in general.

Elizabeth Sexton suggested that the subcommittees reach out to Strategies and other Special Education programs for their feedback on which method they feel will work best for these populations. She also stated that many of these groups already practice social distancing in their classrooms by nature of their programs. Jim Verdi followed up by asking if there are any other alternatives being explored other than face coverings and face shields. Leslie Allfree

brought up the plexiglass partitions as possible options for when any type of facial covering cannot be worn.

Rick Harris asked Mark Mathers if anything further is needed for moving forward with ordering. Mark stated that there are still many questions lingering but that in the meantime, until we get more answers, he suggests ordering 25,000 of each and phase-in the additional orders as more information is received.

Ann Silver, who sits on the Governor's Task Force Committee, stated that the Governor's directives for mandated face coverings excluding persons aged 2-9 was made specifically because of the difficulty of this group to wear them. Margaret Allen reiterated the importance of social distancing, especially for this age group. Ann Silver generously agreed to donate 10,000 free face coverings to WCSD. She is going to work directly with Roy Anderson in getting them delivered and stored.

Katherine Loudon spoke on behalf of the **Mental Wellness subcommittee**. This group comprised of social workers, counselors, psychiatrists, teachers, business partners and more, will be meeting every Tuesday before the Reopening Task Force committee meetings. The objective of this subcommittee is to develop a recovery guide for the 2020-2021 school year integrating the transition processes based on a collaboration of efforts. They will have their first meeting on Tuesday, June 30th and look forward to sharing information with this group right after.

Other Issues:

Rick Harris shared with the group that they have been working with a group of high school principals to determine whether or not all high school campuses should be closed for the 2020-2021 school year. Joe Maez shared his opinion that campuses should be closed because lunch periods are a very social time and students' interactions cannot be monitored during that time if off campus.

Lianka Soliz stated that Nutrition Services staff will be meeting on Monday, June 29th to discuss the various lunch options, if campuses closed (ie: mobile dining, having multiple points of food service throughout campuses).

Sharon Kennedy asked if the district is making any recommendations to the current Visitor policy – with all the coming and going throughout the school day, the guidelines need to be revisited. Rick Harris confirmed that the procedures for visitors is on the radar for discussion/decisions.

Tom Stauss asked if the groups was aware of the 3 new COVID symptoms that were added by the CDC and if we were making updates to include them. Leslie Allfree answered that the 3 new symptoms are being added to materials, etc.

The next Recovery Meeting will be on **Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 10:00am**. If you have items for the agenda, please send them to Rick Harris or Paul LaMarca. Thank you.