

## **Reopening Task Force Committee Notes**

**August 25, 2020: 10:00am – 10:30am**

**Attendees:** Rick Harris, Paul LaMarca, Adam Searcy, Serena Robb, Veronica Thompson, Chris Turner, Ben Hayes, David White, Dina Ciaramella, Erika Ryst, Emily Ellison, Irene Payne, Jason Trevino, Jeana Miller, Jim Verdi, Joe Maez, Joseph Sullivan, Katherine Loudon, Laurel Inuma, Lianka Soliz, Prim Walters, Rick Martin, Roy Anderson, Scott Lee, Tracy Moore, Tami Goulden, Tiffany Young, Trish Shaffer, Tom Stauss, Virginia Doran, Samantha Fredrickson, Melissa Gillis, and Megan Downs

Notetaker: Jen Caldwell

### **Welcome and Agenda Review:**

There were no suggested changes to the agenda.

### **Employee Covid Testing:**

Rick Harris shared and discussed the Employee Algorithm for COVID Symptoms and Testing document with the committee. The document was emailed to the committee on Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> for reference.

There were no questions regarding the document.

### **BOT Meeting Information:**

Paul LaMarca briefed the committee on what can be expected at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Included on the board agenda is an action item to review the metrics to monitor community disease spread and how that can impact learning model choices. Paul stated that it is possible that several actions could be taken on this item, but that it is difficult to anticipate what the trustees will decide on, if anything, at this particular meeting.

Paul stated that the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Authority (TMRPA) has been working closely with another Task Force on an easy-to-use tool, similar to the one used currently to determine the Air Quality Index (AQI), that would be used to interpret COVID data which would be helpful to our entire community. In addition, Paul mentions that as a district we continue to follow the CDC recommendations on the critical importance of keeping schools open (food security, social and emotional aspects, etc.) and we continue to do everything we can.

Joe Maez asked about the 10% positivity rate in Washoe County vs. the Governor's recommended 7% positivity rate. Paul stated that according to a state level report put out by the White House, that Washoe County actually shows a much lower risk than the rest of Nevada.

Tom Stauss asked if there would be a metric put into place that would allow the Superintendent to close the district, despite what the other metrics reflect. Paul stated that at the last BOT meeting, the Board wanted that decision at the BOT level.

Jim Verdi asked if any of the metrics will allow for some schools to remain open (if their numbers are contained) while others close, or will it be an one-size-fits-all approach to school closures. Paul expressed that the trustees will be looking at additional metrics, based on information provided about what is happening in schools vs. what is happening in the rest of the county while continuing to work with the WCHD to determine trends.

Jim Verdi asked what will happen if the trustees decide to modify the current metrics and establish a tighter metric – would the schools still have to wait until Monday to implement? Paul stated that data is reported on Wednesday, reviewed by the Superintendent on Thursday morning and then brought to the task force. Decisions made by the task force can be implemented for Monday. Jim expressed concern, primarily at the elementary level, for insufficient time to get students/staff ready for distance learning with such short notice.

Veronica Thompson asked if all teachers are prepared to teach Distance Learning and if students will be required to do distance learning for 6 hours every day? Paul answered that the district is doing everything possible to have all teachers ready and prepared to switch to full distance learning. Prim Walters stated that the expectations for distance learning are more like 4-5 hours/day and can be a combination of online curriculum and Zoom meetings, as well as established office hours for student questions.

Joe Maez asked if the district had considered mandating students to clean their surface areas before leaving each classroom. Rick Harris stated that the materials for cleaning desks and other surface areas are being provided but that at this time, no teachers or students are being required to wipe down classrooms. Adam Searcy added that custodians continue to do the daily, required disinfecting of classrooms.

Katherine Loudon stated that she has witnessed teachers in schools practicing safety lessons with their students (wearing masks, washing hands, wiping down surfaces). Paul LaMarca reiterated that if everyone stays consistent with these healthy practices, they would be a lot less likely to contract the virus.

David White shared positive news from the meeting he attended last night, and commented how well-attended it was. He also commented on how the use of facemasks during this pandemic will also very likely positively influence the number of flu cases we see in Fall.

Paul LaMarca mentioned that Trish Shaffer had added some useful resources into the group chat if anyone was interested in reviewing them.

Lastly, Paul mentioned to the committee that he had met with a group of private school and charter school administrators/staff and that the meeting went very well. He stated that it is very important for the district to continue collaborating with and providing support to these schools. He stated that he may be asking members of this committee to participate in future meetings.

The next Reopening Meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 10:00am**. If you have items for the agenda, please send them to Rick Harris or Paul LaMarca. Thank you.