

Return to Learning ~ Meeting Notes and Questions ~ 3/12/21

Thought Exchange

Primary thoughts: student and staff safety

Summary of Committee comments, when asked to share 1 word:

- safety
- SEL
- students and student voice
- empathy and flexibility

Concerns mentioned in chat:

Students are missing “rites of passage”; seniors need to be sent off with celebration and pride
Freshman, K and 5th graders entered school in a non-standard format and need help with transition back
Be cognizant that families have suffered major trauma, loss of family/housing/income

Chat Box questions at the end:

Will fans and/or AC be an option in classrooms?

Will students carry barriers or will barriers remain in classrooms?

Will random testing occur? Temperature checks?

Will ventilation systems be considered for buildings?

I think it’s difficult for teachers and students to have classroom that are hybrid – remote and in-person students in the same classroom at the same time; Is it possible to keep remote students remote with the teacher’s full attention on them, and in-person students having an in-person teacher who can focus completely on them? (2 parents expressed same concern for younger students and suggested that K-3 should keep remote-only options)

Challenges with in-person and remote students being in the same classroom; Teachers have to freeze the Smartboard so as not to show students at home to the students in class and then forget to unfreeze

We need to communicate more clearly what the steps are if a child is sent home. There seems to be a lot of confusion of what steps need to be taken for a child’s return.

How can we take advantage of outdoor time with spring weather – could parents (who are vaccinated) help as volunteers to support and supervise this increase outdoor time for children?

Share out for Padlet activity:

Group 1:

Re-entry should be similar experience for all but developmentally appropriate
Grade levels use common types of ice-breaker activities (similar to practices in September)
Creating work spaces for students as well as small group center for teachers to work with students
Preparation for getting ready to learn – focus on safety

Group 2:

More students on the bus = more management issues and safety concerns for bus drivers
Parents are willing to carpool and drive students to school according to survey
CHS students may have schedule flexibility to not need the bus on certain days

Group 3:

Easing worries about increased student numbers includes establishing protocols and following them
Cafeteria: eating outside, keeping small groups of students together
Rapid testing? Random? Temperature checks
Outdoor activities and ventilation - open windows; able to use a/c and/or fans in classrooms?
Sanitizing desk barriers?

Group 4:

Easing anxiety - pre-empting through effective communication with families (principal coffees, BOE presentations, having professionals present covid data etc.)

How are remote classes impacted? These classes are smaller; need to give time for the learning curve due to different climate

Group 5:

Designate “go-to” people for students in each building; how to id early signs of anxiety; staggered back to school transition plan for some students

Specials and spaces – use gymnasiums, but would need pods to store furniture etc; tents with flooring for counseling spaces or indoor/outdoor recess

Group 6:

Rotate playground access areas; Consider higher temperature may make it more difficult to be outside
Will mask wearing be a challenge in heat?

Group 7:

High school students going safely out to lunch; how to collaborate with establishments
Can we do food trucks on Fridays? QR codes or other ways to track students’ locations

Group 8:

Screeners for temp at the entrances to buildings; 100% buy-in to completing the screener; adding a question to the screener regarding awaiting test results

Teachers need for PD; revisit the camera issue (having the camera off results in delay of instruction)

Combining remote students to create full remote and full in-person classes

Group 9:

Similar comments to above