

Topics for Re-opening small group

8/12/2021

The committee broke into subgroups to discuss key areas including-

**Health Protocols, Instruction, Transportation/Food Services,
Athletics/Music/Extracurriculars, SEL/Mental Health**

You have one hour.

Health Protocols:

To consider-

- CDC recommends masking
- District Physician recommends unless mandated, parents can choose.
- Putnam County Department of Health recommends masking (verbally not in writing)
- More quarantining is likely if no masks

Screening-

- still recommended by above agencies
- Testing- recommended by CDC
- Layered Mitigation- recommended by the CDC

Screener (cannot do more than one child)

Streamlining Pre-populated fields and reliable.

Use of words such as "*Exposure*" instead of symptoms.

If not mandated, let's not use one.

One time disclosure vs. Daily

Testing

S.O. has experience with this. No positives out of 400+ tests

Possible opt-in for random testing, but we must have a large pool. Maybe a time limit.

Thoughts are that most parents will not want to partake in this.

Brewster did the consent testing last year – it seemed to work well.

Layered Mitigation

Windows/Doors- open always

Barriers- They were a hindrance more than anything. Appeared to work better on tables.

Spacing- Masks would reduce the need for spacing if not mandated. No masks might need spacing considerations.

Temp Checks- Not invasive but are they predictive of being Covid-positive?

Masks

For – Younger students may not have personal space knowledge like older children. If this helps us stay open and get kids to stay in school, then we should do it. There are families with older family living in the home – risk factor. Whatever it takes to get kids in school. Health care people recommend.

Against – why would schools dictate a health protocol that state and county health departments won't do. Not enough scientific data that says it protects.

Instruction:

Quarantine instruction by individual:

-home instruction for individuals. High concern that we don't have enough home instructors. 3rd party? River to River Instruction? Can teachers do an hour during prep or coverage for additional compensation - (this would need to be negotiated.)

Quarantine instruction by whole class:

-If class is quarantined, we flip to remote.

-This would not work for high school. We need an additional plan for CHS

-We need different plans for the following levels :

-CHS 9-12

-GFMS 7-8

-GFMS 5-6

-K-4: MP, KES, KPS

Quarantine instruction by grade level:

- We need different plans for each level in school.

Health related instruction:

-Home Instructors. Need a doctor's note in order to have this approved

Recommendations:

-Look into 3rd Party Home Instruction "River to River" and/or contract with BOCES. Look to see what other districts are doing for this.

-Gather data from the email sent to parents asking if they have a medical note saying that they cannot come into the building. If the numbers are "enough" to make a class, maybe we form a remote class.

-Building levels (elementary, middle and secondary) need to have different plans when it comes to quarantined instruction

Transportation/Food Services:

Masks on buses? Masking

Options for face shields?

Food delivery if shutdown

There is a plan in place for 100% in Social Distancing, Hybrid 50%(+/-), Fully Remote. The requirement is that all students in Carmel have access to food, in attendance and learning remotely. We already have the approvals in place for a complete shutdown or hybrid model. We are approved for the seamless summer option; all students will be able to have meals at no cost. However, the meals will follow the school calendar, nothing on holidays. Families should continue to complete free and reduced forms, there are several benefits for families and district. There is information for families on the website.

Recommendations:

Masking on Bus?

- Follow the recommendations for the local health and state health departments. CDC does give more information about public transportation and school buses.
- Face shields would be the option of families. If a student has a medical condition and could not wear a mask (if required), one could be supplied by the district.

Food delivery if shutdown

- **Follow the current plan for the 3 scenarios. Grab and go at GFMS rear parking lot.**

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Athletics, Music, Co-Curriculars:

Recommendations:

Any guidance to consider? For athletics we are still following the NYSDOH Sports and Recreation Guidance. This guidance has not changed since March 25. Masks are still required for indoor athletic events.

Masking? The state will determine if they are needed or not. However, without masks the likelihood of quarantining more individuals is likely.

Testing for sports? Only if it is required. Indoor and outdoor sports and activities present different challenges. Who would be administering them? Who pays for the testing? How often do you need to test?

Social Emotional/ Mental Health Support

Recommendations:

How can we screen students to ascertain their current state of well-being?

We strongly believe that SEL needs to be the biggest priority for our children. If children are not emotionally stable, well adjusted, and have a toolkit to fall back on, nothing else matters. Children cannot learn if they are not emotionally ready to do so.

Morning meeting and check in with teacher- emojis possibly, mood meters. Could something possibly be added to the smart button to check if all is okay or not. *** Consensus- Use something BEFORE students come to school- a survey. There are many tools (screeners) available. It has been recommended that this is completed before the students come to school. This will give us an idea at what parts of the population we need to look at more closely. Use a formal screener/evaluation/assessment tool- not necessarily a survey from district. Do not overburden the children or parents with a great number of questions. AIMS Web does have a behavioral screener- we are not sure what that looks like however.

How can we monitor students struggling over time?

A formalized process should be employed to monitor ongoing emotional needs of a student. MTSS? Counseling? Re-energize the follow up procedures so that someone is checking in with these children consistently. Grade level meetings with counselors/social workers/psychologists. Ongoing screeners, maybe through AIMS Web. Build in a weekly homeroom at the high school. Or maybe bi-weekly... this time could be used for SEL and monitoring emotional needs.

Look to purchase SEL program such as Second Step, Ruler, or back to Responsive Classroom etc at the elementary level. Teachers need a program to follow! Provide staff development for teachers regarding SEL instruction.

Look at infusing mental health instruction into the physical education program. We need to increase the time spent on this, especially at the High School.

Look to reignite PBIS... what is working already.

Supporting incoming Kindergarten students

Kindergarten students should attend K playdate... they probably don't need much more than they usually get.

Supporting students who have not been in school in person since before the shutdown.

These children need to be supported extra. We need to look out for them and check in with them. The screener will help us identify students in this category who need more support. Support groups before or after school, there needs to be outreach to these children. Again, this needs to be at the forefront of all our concerns. Education needs to be and should be reimaged! Many of these children have missed over a year of their in-school experience.

Next Steps: A survey was sent to the committee to see what final recommendations can be made based on topics already discussed. This will be reviewed at the next meeting on Thursday, 8/19/21. Breakout groups to discuss home instruction, quarantine instruction, social emotional needs/mental health, screening and testing will be implemented at the next meeting. DURING the meeting updated guidance from NYSED came out. It mirrors CDC guidance in most areas.