



Reimagining and Reopening of School Committee
Virtual Meeting
Monday, July 20, 2020
5-7 pm
Minutes

Present: Ron Drzewicki, Adrienne Barna, Rick Brooks, Matt Stuard, Liz Evans, Christopher Mumby, Ted Berryhill, Mike Prelesnik, Kevin Dufresne, Angie Vandecar, Shana Barnum, Kevin Jones, Kevin Doty, Corrinne Karpinski, Craig Kueffner, Nick Toodzio, Beth Bousfield, Laura Lange, Brian Martel, Lily Brown, Jen Sauser, AmySue Hopkins, Beth Bailey, Cindy Hyaduck, Lynn Goedert, Shana Barnum, Suzie West, Jan Alleman, Tonya Rigdon, Lou Bartolacci, Mary Kay Gavitt, Maria Juras, Krista Sherman, Kerrie Uphaus, Erin Etters, Michelle Faist, Christie Surato, Michael Koot, Rachel Brander

Not Available: Lance Delbridge, Chris Salmon, Greg Lattig, Christy Evans, Nick Minnaar

Welcome

Ron welcomed the committee and thanked everyone for their work. The District's Continuation Plan will be ready for the Board on August 10, 2020.

Committee Discussion/Communication folder

Ron introduced the communication folder where committee members can place articles and informational sources for others to review.

Reimagining and Reopening of School Committee [website](#)

The plan for this webpage is to share information regarding meeting dates, committee and subcommittee members and meeting minutes. A frequently asked question (FAQ) document is in production. Michael Koot inquired about a vision statement for the reopening of school. Laura Lange recommended the idea that the ultimate goal is to teach students the best way possible in any delivery system. Jan Alleman shared that the mode of instruction will be determined based on science.

Suggestion: MPS is committed to providing the best education possible for students in the 2020-21 school year while balancing the safety of students, staff and teachers.

The committee discussed the challenges of bringing large numbers of students into the building, while maintaining social distancing, and providing safety for all including staff.

Subcommittee Reports

Secondary Instruction - Lance and Ted

Ted reported on the subcommittee's work. The group felt the main focus at this time should be on remote or distance learning. They developed guiding principles and created a chart as the backbone for instruction to guide transitioning between remote and face-to-face learning as phasing allows. Robust curriculum with assessments, projects, communications, and expectations for students. The group has concerns regarding the number of students in the building and the safety requirements necessary to do so.

Elementary Instruction - Kevin, Shana, Mike

Kevin reported the elementary team discussed many of the same points as the secondary team. The subcommittee discussed preparing students for the event of a sudden closing. Providing supply lists for items required for in school and at home learning. The remote learning plan would provide schedules for live instruction. The group has concerns regarding the safety requirements and maintaining social distancing. Beth Bousfield provided ideas for elementary music instruction.

HEC, Childcare and Preschool Instruction - Angie

Angie reported that the Kindergarten staff agree with the elementary and secondary points for remote instruction. Licensing and Regulatory Affairs has many guidelines for CDS instruction and childcare. Class sizes are limited to 10 students per each adult instructor. A challenge is how to financially and physically run the program. Preschool and early learning online is not age appropriate. The team discussed the difference between childcare and preschool.

Maintaining Healthy Environments and Operations - Rick, Kevin Doty

Rick shared that Nick is now serving at the District Healthy Environments Coordinator assisting with purchasing PPE, cleaning supplies, signage, and Plexiglas screens for offices. The team is looking at Phase 4 requirements for onsite learning. The daily screening of students and maintaining social distancing remain a challenge. The group discussed cohorts of students. Transportation, food service, before and after care will impact the establishment of cohorts. The health department will need to provide guidance on screening, handling exposures, and contact tracing. Nick reported on obtaining supplies in preparation for the August 26 start of school. Nick shared that the IISD is working to make decisions uniform for the area schools. Rick shared that screening for staff is required daily. Screening for students will be determined by the district, there is not a prescribed mechanism for doing so – still in the development stage. Kerrie Uphaus shared conversations she has had with parents regarding the safety of returning to face-to-face instruction. Liz Evans shared that parents are waiting for more information regarding how school will look.

Food Service - Chris Salmon and Adrienne

Adrienne reported on the plan. Chris is meeting with each building principal on how and when lunch can be served. Breakfast service plan in development. Ingham County Food Service Directors meet this week. USDA request for a waiver for free meals to students for 2020-21 has been submitted and we are waiting for approval.

District Preparedness Plan - Board approved on August 10, 2020

No update at this time.

Ingham ISD Reopening Committee

Matt shared the committee will meet on Tuesday.

2020-21 Reopening Plan

Ron shared that the current plan to reopen school with 100% in-person instruction has many challenges. Social distancing is unobtainable, screening requirements will be difficult, handling exposures/positive cases and the anticipated disruptions are just a few reasons to adjust the plan. The Leadership Team met earlier today and recommends pivoting to the development of a hybrid plan for in-person instruction and further develop a distance learning plan as options for the start of school.

The hybrid plan will be necessary to reduce the numbers of students in attendance each day for face-to-face instruction. Laura Lange supported the development and focus on distance learning. Families want Mason teachers delivering instruction – they are not comfortable with the unknowns of the Bulldog Academy. Laura Lange and Lily Brown discussed the possibility of flexibility in the times we providing instruction. Jen Sauser shared that the MDMEA surveyed the group and its members support starting school with a hybrid model or starting with remote instruction.

Ron shared that moving forward the district needs to continue to focus on the development of a robust remote learning plan. An abbreviated parent survey is being discussed. Parents will need additional information to make informed responses to survey questions. Rachel Brander supported providing details to parents before a second survey is sent.

Brian Martel reported on secondary subcommittee work and shared that faculty can take the robustly created online work and easily transition to in-person instruction. The online live lessons can be recorded for students/families that require flexibility in scheduling.

The committee was supportive of developing a hybrid plan to improve safety and eliminating the 100% in-person plan at this time. Subcommittees will need to continue work on developing robust distance learning plans.

Communications

Ron reviewed the recent communications regarding the reopening plans. Christopher Mumby supported a general communication that we are changing our options for the reopening of school to include a hybrid model and eliminate the 100% in-person option. Angie Vandecar shared that parents need time prepare and plan for necessary childcare. Rachel Brander recommended informing parents as soon as possible.

Matt Stuard commented that based on our discussion today, he's hearing committee members say distance learning will serve as the backbone for all instruction until we're post pandemic to include in-person, hybrid, or remote learning regardless of what phase we're in per the State. Ultimately the goal of distance learning is for the education experience to resemble a normal classroom setting as much as possible regardless of phase or if a student is in-person or remote.

Next Steps

Future meetings

- Thursday, August 6th from 4-6 pm
- Wednesday, August 19th from 5-7 pm

Ron thanked the committee and subcommittees for their great work and time invested. We will continue to pull together to prepare for the challenges ahead.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.