

Re-Entry Committee Virtual Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2020
3:30 p.m.

Committee Members:

Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue	Anne Uberti	Dr. Frank Purcaro
Ron Bienkowski	Chris Geissler	Dr. Kathy Gombos
Dr. Matt Correia	Dr. Kim Longobucco	Dr. Michelle Ku
John Vouros	Rebekah Harriman-Stites	Tom Kuroski
Marlene Bucci	Erin Ardino	Anne Dalton
Karen Powell	Mark Pompano	Matt Memoli
Suzanne Hurley	Bob Gerbert	Jack Vichiola
Brett Nichols	Kim Shapiro	Lisa Kilcourse
Donna Culbert	Suzanne D'Eramo	Carmella Amodeo
Michelle Hiscavich	Kristen Bonacci	Allyson Story
Deb Petersen	Sharon Vetrano	Jen Hoag
Kerri Sommer	Alan Colangelo	Tom Pescarmona
Kierstin Raccio	Andrew SanAngelo	Tracy Galassi
Induk Song	Meredith Walsky	Kristin Larson

Dr. Rodrigue opened the meeting at 3:34 p.m. and thanked the committee for the incredible level of work that went into this plan which is in alignment with the State. The plan was sent to the committee members as well as the Board of Education. We will present this to the Board for approval next Tuesday. She thanked Mrs. Uberti and Dr. Purcaro who pulled this plan together. There will be questions through the process and she reserved days to discuss the plan with parents who would like to meet with her.

Mrs. Uberti and Dr. Purcaro reviewed the plan. The Connecticut State Department of Education directed all school districts to return to school full-time with in-person instruction. In addition to preparing for full-time instruction, school districts must also prepare a hybrid model for partial reopening and a remote model if schools close. We are planning for an in-person learning model. This committee focused their work around six pillars that defined critical elements of the plan which include Governance, Wellness, Facilities, Instruction and Technology, Operations, and Social and Emotional Learning.

Pillar I Governance included planning and coordination, communication, and human resource considerations. Mrs. Uberti will serve as the District COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Liaison.

Pillar II Wellness addresses education and training, health supplies, immunizations and health assessments, minimizing exposure through physical or social distancing and wearing face coverings and masks. Information was also included on managing and containing illness, returning to school after illness or in close contact with illness, school day considerations and attendance, health supplies, immunizations and health assessments, physical or social distancing, use of facemasks, managing and containing illness, school day considerations, and attendance.

Pillar III Instruction and Technology included identifying learning gaps, equity, inclusion, and access, instructional materials, paraeducators, special education, English language learners, and the three models of learning. These models include on-site learning for all students in the fall, a hybrid learning model with 50% of students either onsite or distance learning on an alternating basis, or full distance learning through an online environment. If we have to switch to

another learning model we recommend students in grades K-2 keep their devices at home and grades 3-12 students will bring them to school during the hybrid model. With this model, schools will be closed on Wednesdays for cleaning with teachers working on line with students. If fully remote, we would keep the Wednesday break with students working independently on assignments and teachers having time for collaboration, prep, and professional development.

Pillar IV Social Emotional Learning addresses school re-engagement supporting the social/emotional needs of all students, parents and staff and SEL staff training. We will need a lot of support for students and use the Safe School Climate Committee's culture of hope, wellness and optimism.

Pillar V Facilities includes information on classroom health and safety, signage and messaging, and school and campus security with public health guidelines being followed with checklists for cleaning.

Pillar VI School Operations addresses building usage, State and Federal lunch programs and policies, cafeteria spaces, lunches and snacks, athletics, recess and play, and transportation and buses. The buses will be at full capacity with assigned seats, students wearing face masks and will include bus monitors. Windows will remain open.

Dr. Rodrigue asked for thoughts and questions.

Allyson Story thanked them for this incredible work and noted we are removing excess furniture and asked if doing that class sizes won't have to adjust.

Dr. Rodrigue said with removing furniture we were able to get within the minimum of 3 feet but shooting for the feasibility of the 6 feet which the State plan calls for.

Tracy Galassi asked about seating on the buses.

Dr. Rodrigue said All-Star sent their plan which is mirroring the State guidelines regarding masks and the bus being cleaned between rides. A routine will be established with students which is the key in understanding expectations.

Ms. Galassi asked about temperatures being taken and rescheduling custodians to work during the day.

Dr. Rodrigue said taking temperatures is a shared responsibility with the community. It's important that parents screen children to be sure they don't have a temperature. We will be purchasing thermometers for those families that need one. Masks are critical. Bob Gerbert will be moving and shifting the custodians and provide overtime when needed. There will be check lists outside of each bathroom.

Ms. Galassi asked how we would handle if someone was sick in a classroom and how we would handle quarantining.

Dr. Rodrigue said if someone is sick it would be self-reporting. Nurses will be the building liaisons and the Health Director would be involved. Regarding being quarantined, it depends on where the case was first reported and if they were in school or on a bus. Thresholds will be coming down from State to make it clear but it will be her and the Director of Health to determine where that contact was.

Donna Culbert thanked everyone for their hard work and feels we are way ahead of a lot of places. We have to be patient and calm as things evolve and change over the next months. This is a great district with dedicated people.

Ms. Galassi asked about the 177 days for the school year.

Dr. Rodrigue shared that the State offered to go to 177 school days to allow for professional development for teachers. She will speak to the Board about it but she feels we are good with the change we made on the calendar. There's plenty of time to get everyone prepared. This has been incredible to see a team this large work so hard and come together to develop this plan. We wanted to make sure we exuded confidence for parents, the community and staff to be assured we have done everything we can to make people feel safe.

John Vouros thanked everyone for all of their work to reassure this community that we have been hyper-vigilant on everyone to keep the staff and children safe and learning.

We will be presenting it to the Board next Tuesday night and invited everyone to tune in.

The meeting ended at 4:34 p.m.