

**Health and Safety Committee Minutes
July 21, 2020**

Attendance:

Bradshaw, Elizabeth	Lambo, Lauren
Caccavale, Monique	Lauria, Jane
Cambria, Doug	Mangiamele, Christine
Cartisano, Marianne	Moy, Maureen
Cucinello, Tricia	Oliva, Christine
Dannenberg, Tabitha	Pachter, Jarid
Davis, Larry	Penske, Tara
Fasano, Fasano	Petrie, Ron
Hoenderdos (Snijders), Annelies	Quigley, Stephanie
Killeen, Killeen	Shanks, Desiree
Koppelman, Tricia	Sookhdeo, Sharda
Kuemmel, Hannah	Warsaw, Dennis
Lakas, Jen	White, Debra

Agenda:

1. Distance Learning Platform.
2. Hybrid Draft.
3. Review the New York state Education Department's *Recovering, Rebuilding, and Renewing: The Spirit of New York's Schools Reopening Guidance*.

Mr. Lipshie stated that this is the third meeting of the Health and Safety Committee. On Thursday, July 17, 2020, the District received NYSED's Reopening Plan. The district will develop their reopening plan in combination with NYSED, DOH and Attorneys. Mr. Health and safety is addressed on pages 17-46. The 21 mandatory requirements for reopening are addressed on pages 17-19 and pages 19-46 addresses considerations for reopening.

Mr. Lipshie asked if anyone has questions from the previous meetings or suggestions for topics to be discussed. Mr. Lipshie received the following questions from committee members in between committee meetings:

Question: Facemasks/Face coverings requirements? Mr. Lipshie stated that this question will be discussed after review of the 21 health and safety mandatory requirements.

Question: What would school look like remotely? Mr. Lipshie stated that the following considerations:

- Number of students that can safely be in school at one time.
- Supplies
- Ability to Social Distance

Each school in the district will be submitting three plans for remote, in person, hybrid. The District will be submitting a total of 12 plans. The in person plan would suspend social distancing. A draft of Hybrid thus far – A day Monday & Thursday 50% of students attend school; Tuesday & Thursday the other 50% of students attend school. Wednesday all students virtual learning. The Pros and Cons to AM vs PM alternative and one week in and one week out was vetted out at the Learning & Planning Subcommittee.

Mr. Lipshie stated that the district announced that grades K-12 will switch to Google Platform. This platform will work for the hybrid plan, the completely virtual plan, and the in person plan. Other districts went to the Google platform. Although this is not Health and Safety, it is big news.

Question: Committee member asked about the ventilation and temperature in the high school classroom. Mr. Lipshie stated that the district is looking into air purifiers in areas warranted. We are limited to the option air conditioning the entire building.

Question: Committee member asked if staff was responsible for supplying their own PPE. Mr. Lipshie stated that the district would supply PPE but staff can bring their own.

Question: Committee member asked about temperature checks for students prior to getting on bus or entering building. Mr. Lipshie stated that the district is allowed to ask staff to self-temperature check. Staff or student with temperature above 100 degrees and not showing signs or symptoms, district will assume its COVID-19. Staff will be required to get a medical diagnosis. A plan will be developed for parents who do not take child's temperature at home. Mr. Lipshie is looking into a COVID-19 real time app. This would save paper. Does it deal with students? Everyone needs to be screened.

Question: Committee member asked when students enter the buildings do they need to wear a facemask. Mr. Lipshie stated that if students are not wearing a mask they cannot take the bus or enter the school. The district will look at having multiple entries for staff to identify students without a facemask.

Question: Committee member asked to consider peer-to-peer teaming of students to work virtually.

Question: Committee member asked about a medical professional review of protocols. Mr. Lipshie stated that the districts Chief Medical Officer will review the protocols along with the Steering Committee.

Mr. Lipshie stated the district created 7 subcommittees and a communication committee will be created. He then addressed the 21 health and safety mandatory requirements:

1. Consider the number students to maintain social distancing.
 - a. Hybrid Model of 50% of students
 - b. Mask availability – Page 33 & 34
 - c. Transportation of students
2. Engage Stakeholders (7 Committees).
3. Communication Plan (Committee will take place following Plan Adoption).
4. Instructions to staff to observe signs and symptoms in students and staff (Professional Development).
5. Screening for staff & students – Plan for temperature not taken at home.
6. All ill staff & students seen by an RN (all our nurses are RN's). In the absence of a nurse, staff and students will be sent home.
7. Isolation Room – Separate for staff & student with fever/asymptomatic. Consult with nurse and Chief medical officer regarding stocking isolation room, running water for hand washing; mobile hand washing stations. We will be creative.
8. Protocol for visitors (Operations). Reduce the number of visitors to the extent possible. Tracking of visitors i.e. date, time destination.
9. Instruct parents to observe for signs & symptoms in their child. Weekly update.
10. Protocol for signage for hand and respiratory hygiene. We will also develop a plan for workplace signage – floor plans for one-way traffic and to reduce crowding or mingling.
11. Protocol to ensure keeping social distance of 6 feet whenever possible. NYSDOH and State Ed Department guidelines – 6 feet whenever possible.

Question: Committee member asked is the 50% student capacity to social distance? What about the use of partitions between children in classrooms? Can we safely put students closer together with barriers without facemasks? They are using barriers in her child's preschool. Mr. Lipshie stated that the district is looking at social distancing of 6 feet in classrooms not less than 6 feet. Committee member stated that the district cannot safely have an exit protocol with barriers in place. This was discussed at the Operations committee.

Question: Committee member asked with different groups of students i.e. Special Ed requiring OT or PT, Speech therapy – how do we social distance them in tight quarters. Teachers who work with kids at small table – masks or partitions in between students on desks. Mr. Lipshie stated this complicates static setting for students and teachers. Must maintain 6 feet whenever possible and at times when not possible – take precautions. In an educational setting facemasks must be worn if 6 feet cannot be maintained. Reaffirmed 12 feet in certain educational settings i.e. music, phys ed. This will be broached at times.

12. Protocol to provide accommodations to all students & staff who are at high risk or live with a person at high risk (504 & ADA). This touches on more legal. Reasonable accommodations need to be made for those most vulnerable. The ADA

accommodations for staff and 504 for students. What reasonable accommodations can be made to perform or to learn.

13. Must wear a cloth face covering (mask) when social distancing cannot be maintained. This will be discussed further at the end of the meeting.
14. Protocol for students taking mask breaks.
15. Maintain adequate supplies (Operations) pages 33 & 34.
16. Plan for a confirmed case. Suffolk County DOH meeting with Superintendents. Suffolk County Superintendents met with Suffolk County DOH on Monday, July 20, 2020 regarding guidance, contact tracing, school closure, and temperature checks.

Discussion continued regarding school openings. If there is an uptick in absences call SC DOH. COVID-19 cluster. Schools will close if regional infection rate rises over 9%. Under 9% school can remain open. School cannot reopen until down to 5%. Dr. Cartisano state that the Governor considers Nassau and Suffolk one region. Suffolk County is very large. How does what happens in Huntington effect Montauk and how does what happens in Greenport effect Smithtown etc. The district will be submitting 3 plans for each building next Friday. Each school has its own geography with reference to each having different types of space that may have to be repurposed. The models will be very fluid based on each schools circumstances.

Question: Committee member asked what happens between 6%-8%? Mr. Lipshie stated that the 9% would close school and school could reopen when it was below 5%. At 6%-8% schools could remain open as the percentage increased to 9%. Once at 9% or more, the school would remain closed at 6-8% until it was below 5%.

Question: Committee member asked if the district is collaborating with other districts. Dr. Cartisano stated that there are no boundaries. Nassau and Suffolk Superintendents participate in 3 hour Zoom meetings at least 3 times a week. There is hurdle after hurdle. East district has their own BOE members so their school day may look different.

Committee member stated at least each what each district is doing individual is being considered and you are comparing apples to apples.

Mr. Lipshie stated district is open to sharing ideas and we will be very creative on how we can make it work.

17. Written return to school (CDC guidance). Student and staff protocol.
 - a. Illness symptoms
 - b. Confirmed Case
 - c. Quarantine due to contact
 - d. (SCDOH meeting) – guidance
18. Written Plan to disinfect & clean. Follow CDC guidelines.
19. Drills with Modifications (12). Maintain Social Distance.
 - a. 8 Evacuation Drills – staggered for social distancing.
 - b. 4 Lockdown Drills – discuss a sheltering in place overview as opposed to doing the drill.

20. Plan for before & after care programs.
21. COVID-19 Safety Coordinator. Overseeing process – appointed.

Question: Committee member asked about fire retardant doors (page 18). Doors must remain closed. She also stated that windows do not open beyond 4”. Concern about airflow. Committee member added that LADSBS and AMPS classrooms have doors that open to the outside. Committee member stated that facilities is working on a plan with keeping doors open and looking at stops on windows so that they can increasing opening.

Question: Committee member asked if opening the exterior classroom doors to the outside are and safety or security issue. Committee member stated that he cannot answer yes or not to the exterior doors at this time.

Discussion regarding Suffolk County DOH and Contract Tracing. Mr. Lipshie stated that all staff and student schedules would need to be kept up-to-date. We are looking at reducing visitors, utilizing a visitor log that includes date, time and location of visit, essential visitors for student services. We will need a policy for students who forget items. Do they do without it for the day and bring it next time?

Question: Committee member suggested that sick students could be brought to vestibule to limit traffic. Mr. Lipshie stated that he had a conversation with the Principal regarding student sign-in and need to change route. We will develop very specific protocols with input from the School Nurse.

Discussion regarding Facemasks. Mr. Lipshie stated that facemasks are required to be worn when social distancing cannot be maintained, on buses and in hallways. Facemasks can be removed in the classroom when eating, when receiving instruction and facemask breaks when social distancing is maintained. The District does have the right to require masks being worn in classrooms even with social distancing. The Steering Committee is waiting for the results of the survey to make final determination.

Question: Committee member stated that an epidemiology article regarding decrease risk of younger students passing or transmitting COVID-19. Older students can carry and transmit. It is harder for younger children to wear facemasks. It will be different from level to level. Mr. Lipshie reiterated that facemasks must be worn if social distancing cannot be maintained and that this discussion will continue to take place.

Committee member stated facemask compliance might be an issue for some students in the high school. Who is to say that they do or do not have a medical issue? Mr. Lipshie stated that this was a great question. How you approach the student or staff member and your tone is important. Is there a reason why? Is a family member or the student vulnerable or at risk. Does the student have a documented 504 or ADA for staff member. This will have to be looked at case by case. We will be offering a lot of professional development for social and emotional support. Committee member stated confidentiality for students. Mr. Lipshie stated that teachers will need to know.

Question: Committee member asked concerning severe asthma - are air conditioning units are allowed to be on?

Question: Committee member talked about when doing guided reading the teacher needs to be able to see students mouths moving. Is the district purchasing face shields? Mr. Lipshie stated that the district is looking into purchasing face shields and that they do not give the same protection as facemasks. This will be vetted out so that ENL and Speech get what they need. Committee member stated that there are clear facemasks for the hearing impaired. Committee member stated that clear masks fog.

Question: Committee member asked about sanitizing bathrooms 1 in and 1 out and restrooms in located in classrooms and the number of children using them. Mr. Lipshie stated that with the Hybrid model allows for cleaning at night. It is less complicated than how to clean throughout the day. This will be a conversation among Administrators.

Question: Committee member asked the process for cleaning hard surfaces. Is the teacher cleaning or student? Bathroom cleaning and frequency of use. How are we managing cleaning? Will there be additional custodial staff. At the elementary level there are many things happening requiring a custodian. Committee member stated educating students on hand washing and it is impossible to cover every area. Mr. Lipshie stated that students and staff will be instructed on responsible hygiene.

Committee member stated that in his place of business he is wearing a facemask all day. Facemasks are recommended when within 6 feet. In regards to the prior discussion of working closely with students (i.e. guided reading) he recommended that students remove the facemasks and the teacher wear the facemask and a face shield to protect eyes from COVID-19. Mr. Lipshie stated this will be a discussion with the district's Chief Medical Officer regarding students and teachers facemasks and face shields.

Committee member reiterated that when doing certain things with students you will need to see their mouths moving. Social distancing is not possible in small groups.

Committee member stated that his opinion for teachers and the issue asymptomatic students that the teacher never take off their facemasks. They should wear masks all day long. This will be our future. There are not standards for face shields. Any face shield is fine they are not regulated or googles are an option. Mr. reiterated looking into clear masks and face shields.

Question: Committee member asked about gloves for when sharing equipment among staff and students specifically special area teachers. Mr. Lipshie stated that sharing of materials should be reduced. Mr. Lipshie will look into this.

Mr. Lipshie stated if anyone has any thoughts before the next meeting email him. July 31 is not that far away.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 28, 2020.