

Health and Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2020

Attendance:

Cartisano, Marianne	Mangiamele, Christine
Cucinello, Tricia	Moy, Maureen
Fasano, AnnaLisa	Pachter, Jarid
Killeen, Noreen	Penske, Tara
Koppelman, Tricia	Petrie, Ron
Lakas, Jen	Quigley, Stephanie
Lambo, Lauren	Shanks, Desiree
Lauria, Jane	Sookhdeo, Sharda
Lipshie, Seth	Warsaw, Dennis
Mancini, Nicholas	

Agenda:

Committee Emails
Parent Survey
Reopening Plans
Health Offices
Meeting with Chief Medical Officer

Mr. Lipshie stated that this was a busy week and a lot has happened since last meeting. Mr. Lipshie apologized about the cancellation of the last meeting due to the storm. Mr. Lipshie started the meeting discussing emails from committee members and non-committee members.

Question – How will the District accommodate vulnerable staff? Who determines high risk? What would accommodations entail? Can high risk individuals decline accommodations? Mr. Lipshie stated that the district will make reasonable accommodations based on the employees medical documentation outline.

Question - Committee member asked when the teachers will be packing up classrooms to maximize social distancing of students. Mr. Lipshie stated that teachers will be packing up and removing up personal belongings in their classrooms to maximize classroom space this week..

Question – Does the district have a protocol for testing? The district is not administering tests.

Question – Committee member asked if the secondary school teachers will have barriers. Mr. Lipshie stated that the K-5 students will have a 3-way plexiglass barrier. At the secondary level, all desks face one direction. The district is looking into other alternatives for the secondary students and staff.

The Facilities Director stated that the HVAC system in all buildings is being tested to verify that it is functioning properly as designed and that they are at the proper CFM's. Two different tests were being performed.

Question – Can fans or air conditioners be used in classrooms? Mr. Lipshie stated that Fans and Air Conditioners cannot be used in classrooms. Air Conditioners and fans recirculate the same air and may move infected air.

Question – Committee member asked what is the remedy to keep the rooms cool in the high school. She stated that HVAC is fresh air but on a hot and humid day it becomes a health and safety concern of spreading germs. Mr. Lipshie stated that doors and windows will be open to circulate air. HVAC will circulate air from the outside.

Question – Committee member asked if the existing air conditioners in the Health Office, Library, and Main Office can be used and what about students with 504's. Mr. Lipshie stated that the district is addressing students with IEP's and masks. Students with 504's will be addressed by the Special Education department.

Question – Committee member asked if bulletin boards can be used in the classrooms. Mr. Lipshie stated that for cleaning purposes, bulletin boards will not be used. Classrooms will have a different look. Shelves are being covered. Sharing of items will be eliminated.

Guidelines for Mask Breaks - Mr. Lipshie stated that principals are working on a schedule for mask breaks and will submit it to Mr. Lipshie and the Superintendent and then to the Chief Medical Officer.

Parent Survey – Mr. Lipshie stated that there were 1700 responses to 7 questions. Three of the questions referred to students building, grade etc. The other questions referred to in-person instruction, wearing masks, participation in breakfast or lunch program and transportation.

Reopening Plan – Mr. Lipshie stated that the reopening plan was submitted on July 31. The district did not exercise their right to an extension. The plan is posted on the district website.

Question – Committee member asked at the secondary level, if rooms are sanitized after each class, will there be more time between classes. Mr. Lipshie stated that with regard to cleaning between classes and social distancing, the district is working to determine how much time is needed in between classes.

Health Offices - Mr. Lipshie stated that a committee member who is a physician at Stony Brook University, who deals with COVID-19 forwarded protocols. Mr. Lipshie will be meeting with the school nurses on August 12. There has been an open line of communication with Mr. Lipshie and school nurses regarding ordering equipment, questions, processes and protocols and guidance. The following items will be addressed:

- N95 tests have been ordered
- Arrange for Fit Test for N95 masks
- Isolation Room
- Signage for Health Office
- Hiring Health Professional Staff
- Superintendent's Conference Day and Professional Development topics
 - How to put on and take off masks
 - PPE Protocols

Mr. Lipshie stated that there are six areas in the plan that deal with the Health Office. We will be focusing on the following:

- Isolating suspected COVID-19 staff or students
- Assessing suspected COVID-19 staff or students
- Criteria for returning COVID-19 staff and students
- Recognizing Signs and Symptoms

Discussion with Mr. Lipshie and school nurse regarding fit testing for N95 masks. The school nurse stated she has contacted Suffolk County DOH. Mr. Lipshie asked if the Fire Department can do the fit testing. The school nurse stated that they are looking into the Fire Department. Committee member stated that City MD will do N95 fit testing. A corporate account is required.

Mr. Lipshie stated that he has been in contact with the Chief Medical Officer regarding developing protocols for the following:

- Signs and Symptoms
- Training Staff and students to recognize signs and symptoms
- Vulnerable staff and students
- Student Guidelines

Mr. Lipshie stated that the district and the Chief Medical Officer have the same conservative approach to sending home students and/or staff and returning students and/or staff back to school. Guidelines will be sent to students and staff before school starts so that they are aware of the expectations and the conservative approach that the district will be taking.

Question – Committee member asked what the instructional plan is moving forward. Are there milestones or goals in place as NYS changes. Is the district going to extend in-person for all students. Mr. Lipshie stated that three plans have been submitted i.e. all remote, in

person and hybrid. The scheduling for the secondary students have been schedule for a seamless transition. Students will not have to be rescheduled based on the three plans. The Superintendent stated that the elementary students will stay in school five days a week and the secondary students will stay on the hybrid plan as long as the metrics are met. The Governor or the DOH can close the school and make it 100% remote. If the Governor relaxes social distancing during the school year, then we will look at 100% in-person. The committee member thanked Mr. Lipshie and the Superintendent for the district's transparency.

Question – Committee member asked about parent meetings. Mr. Lipshie stated that the district will be conducting three parent meetings and one faculty meeting.

Question – Committee member asked if there are any changes to the school calendar or the school opening date. The Superintendent stated to stay tuned. Any changes to the school calendar will be sent out via a connectEd message. The Superintendent thanked the committee for their time and meaningful work. The information that came out of the committee was brought to the Steering Committee. The Superintendent is proud and pleased to have the K-5 in school full-time and disappointed that the district is not able to have the secondary students return full time in person. There are 900 secondary students and 100 secondary staff members, social distancing cannot be maintained. We are still in a Pandemic and public health crisis.

Mr. Lipshie ended the meeting by expressing his appreciation for all who participated in the committee. The committee has helped the district look deeper and gather information to bring to the Steering Committee. Since the plan has been submitted this will conclude the committee meetings. If it is necessary, Mr. Lipshie will reach out to schedule a meeting. A plan on paper may look different in action and the district will rectify any issues that could not be anticipated. Mr. Lipshie stated to the committee members to email any questions. Stay safe.