

Re-Opening Committee Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2020

Goals for this meeting:

1. Establish Primary Considerations List
2. Review Current Guidance from OSPI
3. Given Guidance, Consider Practicality of the “All Students In Person Every Day” Option, and Explore Potential Alternatives

Attendees:	Role	In Attendance
Spencer Welch	Facilitator	x
Kent Kultgen	Superintendent	x
Shawn Stevenson	Executive Director of Academic Services	x
Kim Radek	Administrative Assistant	x
Kristin Foley	Communication Director	x
Eran Gourarie	Executive Director of Technology	x
Becky Brockman	Interim Exec. Director of Special Services	x
Tom Laufmann	Executive Director of Business Services	x
Miriam Mickelson	Executive Director of Teaching and Learning	x
Ralph Rohwer	Executive Director of Operations	x
Darryl Pernat	Executive Director of Human Services	
Jeff Larson	Principal, Glacier Peak High School	x
June Shirey	Director, AIM High School	x
Monica Bauer	Principal, Valley View Middle School	x
Heidi Rothgeb	Principal, Central Elementary	x
Kert Lenseigne	Principal, Cascade View Elementary	x
Mike Anderson	Principal, Cathcart Elementary	x
Veronica Schmidt	Transportation Supervisor	x
Jami Cross	Admin Assistant/PSE President	x
Justin Fox-Bailey	SEA President	x
Concepcion Hellmund	Para Ed/Spanish Translator	x
Sara Woolverton	Executive Director of Special Services (Fall)	x
Marty Grasa	Director of Food Services	x
Kristy Thompson	Parent	x
Rebekah Cruze	Parent	x
Erin Houg	Parent	x
Kris Pieper	Nurse	x
Lew Dickert	Principal/Little Cedars	x
Megan Hutchison	Teacher/SEA Vice-President	x
Angela Cohen	Parent	x
Lisa Russon	Parent	x
Megan Sursely	Parent	x
Mitzi Feltz	Parent	x

Jennifer Box	Parent	x
Kolleen Daly	Parent	x
Camillus Williams	Parent	x
Stephanie Newton	Parent	x

Old Business:

Welcome/Comments about Meetings from June 19 Meeting/Goals for this Meeting/Review focus of our Shared Work Together
Today's focus was to 1) Establish the primary considerations list, 2) Review Current Guidance from OSPI documents from the state and 3) Given Guidance, Consider Practicality of the "All Students In Person Every Day" Option, and Explore Potential Alternatives
Thanks to the group for the commentary in the reflections and we will put into place some adjustments.
Dr. Kultgen said that he is looking forward to this meeting and future meetings. Today we will jump deeper into conversations of where we are going and get some good thoughts put together on the direction we need to go based on what we are receiving from the state. He hopes the group all got a chance to watch the Chris Reykdal video and read the question and answer guide that OSPI sent out. We want some good discussions today with lots of sharing from the group.
Mr. Welch reminded the committee of what the Superintendent has shared in previous meetings that we can't get into the weeds. The work of this committee is to provide the overall 10,000 ft level and give ideas of what may have been missed along the way. The tension is that we to want to dive in but keep the proper focus on what the job of this committee is.

Establish Primary Considerations List
List of primary considerations generated in the June 5 Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus on equity access to learning • Safety of students and staff, both physically, mentally and social/emotional. • Need to have a reliable system in place. • Needs to be sustainable and flexible and community driven. • Transparency. • All students' needs are different. • Need to benefit from the new skills we have learned through the pandemic. • Build relationships. • Have quality communication (more important than quantity). • Ability to provide academic growth. • Provide teachers resources. • Through feedback and re-evaluation, the flexibility to change. • Need to align with state guidelines. • Inclusive equity. • Financial stability. • Creativity to do the most we can with the limitations we have with the state and budget. • Provide high level learning. We don't want to fail our students. • Need to partner with parents. • Students need to have consistency. • Families need to have balance.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can't have barriers in what we are providing. • Relationships with students and parents.
<p>High Quality Learning Opportunities for All Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus on equity access to learning • Recognition of the differences in student needs • Have quality communication • Ability to provide academic growth • Inclusive equity • Provide high level learning • We can't have barriers in what we are providing • Provide teachers resources • Need to benefit from the new skills we have learned from our experience of the last four months • Build relationships • Students need to have consistency
<p>Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety of students and staff: physical, mental, and social-emotional • Need to align with State guidelines
<p>Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to have a reliable system in place • Needs to be sustainable and flexible and community driven • Thorough feedback and re-evaluation; the flexibility to change • Financial stability • Creativity to do the most we can with the limitations we have with State and District budget
<p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency • Need to partner with parents • Families need to have balance • Relationships with students and parents
<p>Last week we had a good group conversation about the primary considerations. Mr. Welch had put them into 4 main categories. The first category was high quality learning opportunities for all students which includes the recognition of different student needs. The 2nd was safety, students and staff are in the safest environment as possible, the 3rd consideration was sustainability. What we come up with has to be measured in a sustainable way over the long term and consistency for all students and staff. The last and 4th category is community. How are we going to provide transparency, and recognize that we need to partner with parents, and that families need balance in their lives.</p>
<p>Discussion- Asked the group, how do you feel about those broad categories? Do you have others that might better meet those desires? Any concerns?</p>
<p>Parent noted that providing a high-quality education is one of the top important factors for her. We need to make sure we aren't providing education at a 50% level. All students need to be getting a get a high-quality education while on campus or not on campus.</p>
<p>Parent/Para noted what we have come up with for primary considerations is great so far. One of her concerns, is there going to be any financial aid for masks or shields if students are attending school? How can we make sure we cover the needs for all students? The other consideration is the quality of instruction provided online. Will students have better technology with less issues? How are students going to get computers? Are they going to be able to keep them at home? Students need consistency and a good relationships with all teachers in high school when they have a variety of six different teachers.</p>

<p>Parent stated that the community wants to know if we have a split schedule, how is that going to work for single parents and working families? She also noted that If we need access to masks there is a local company that is providing them at low cost.</p>
<p>Parent said that she has a concern between the balance of safety and quality of education. How do we maintain the quality of education? She doesn't want kids to get behind in their education.</p>
<p>Aim principal spoke to a lot of her teachers, and they are continuing to work on providing a high-quality education. They have learned a lot this year by teaching online so far. In her world at AIM, kids are absent a lot, and it is good if they can do some of their work online. They are prepping for it and getting ready to provide good education for all students.</p>
<p>Another parent was also frustrated that there was not consistency across the board between teachers. Some expected a lot of work and others didn't expect much. The expectations need to be set across the board for all teachers and students.</p>
<p>A parent stated sending out videos is not good enough. Just checking in with students and nothing else is not ok. She would like to see virtual classrooms. Students need relationships with teachers.</p>
<p>Teacher said she would like a clearer path for teachers to hear input from parents. There is a group of 50 teachers on a subcommittee that are working on next year planning.</p>
<p>Mr. Welch said there is a question between the tension of safety and the quality of the program. Launching into doing something new without time to plan, made it difficult to provide the type of education that the district wanted.</p>
<p>Parent stated at the last meeting we talked about a separate category for staff which includes resources and support for staff and teachers which would include training, resources and screening help. And we called out that communication is really important. Would love to have clarity with knowing what are we allowed to tell people as we are creating plans. Can we send links of out? Parents are anxious about the fall and need have time to plan. Through this process there should be constant communication so parents know what direction the district is going.</p>
<p>A parent is hearing there are a lot of parents looking into homeschooling. She is telling them to hold on and wait until you see what the school district is providing. Can something be sent out to parents that we are working on making a good experience for students next year? The district is putting a lot of effort into getting Parent Partnership information out.</p>
<p>A poll was done to see if the categories were sufficient to set and we can move on. Almost 100% were in agreement that the group was on the right track with high quality learning opportunity for all students, safety, sustainability and community which includes transparency and communication. Teacher support would fall under both sustainability and providing high quality education.</p>

<p>Review of Current Guidance</p>
<p>Dr. Kultgen said we need to take a look at what scheduling will look like next year. Chris Reykdal gave some additional clarity in the video that was sent out and the question and answer guide that was released. As you saw, we get some guidance and then it gets clarified and gets reigned back or changes are made.</p>
<p>In the guidance there are 4 major things: First, our goal is kids will be back in school face to face, then in the video he made it clear that students may be back in school but not all at once, second the 6ft social distancing rule. At first, it felt like it was flexible with wording like "as much as possible", but then he came back with 6ft. is required but realized there will be times when people are passing each other in class or in the hallways. The third thing is mask are mandatory, but really face covering is the word that we should use. The last is transportation and bussing. It was clarified that students don't have to be 6ft apart but separated as much as possible since they are not together for long periods of time. In the question and answer guide it gives a clearer explanation about face coverings. Students can wear a face mask or face shield. Staff can wear a face shield when teaching but other times of the day they have to wear a mask.</p>

A parent asked, "What kind of guidance is there going to be for staff or students that have health issues and can't wear face coverings at all? There are exceptions in the guide if people can't wear face coverings.
Providing the video and question and answer guide gave us some clarity. With that we can dive into what the school looks like for schedules.
Mr. Welch provided a second poll. Do we believe, given the information provided by OSPI, that we could open with all student physically at school every day? The majority of members said no. A parent said we need to be creative on different ideas of looking at all spaces that could be used. Another parent said she needs to understand logistics better like the size of each class. Have we been out to measure the classes? Dr. Kultgen said yes, and then turned it over to Ralph Rohwer, Executive Director of Operations.
Mr. Rohwer stated, the elementary school classes can hold between 15-17 kids in a generic classroom. His crew has also measured the stage and music rooms which can also hold an average of about 15-17 students. If we put the classes in the cafeteria then we need to figure out lunch. We are looking at all spaces. The district is planning on measuring secondary schools next week.
A parent asked, "If we were to maximize all of the spaces in the schools, are there enough teachers to supply instruction." The district is analyzing that as well.
The poll was that 80% thought that we could not fit all students in schools, and 20% thought yes, we could fit all students in our schools. Mr. Welch hears that there are some unanswered questions that makes it hard to make a response, but to please note your thinking in the reflection document.

New Business:

Discussion of Potential Options
Our goal is to have every student back in school, in-person, full-time, as soon as possible. If this cannot be safely accomplished due to State safety protocols at the start of the school year. 1) What are some ways that we could split our students to deliver in-person instruction? 2) Is it possible that we could serve some student in-person every day, and if so, how would we determine whom we could serve in this way?
Breakout groups occurred for approximately 45 minutes for people to discuss if we can't have all kids back in school at once. What are some ways we can split our schedule to serve students? Is there a way we can serve some of our kids in schools and which ones would we serve?
Share some main thoughts:
Group one said the highest priority for their group was to provide quality education. A concern was made for single or working parents in reference to a split schedule. What are the kids going to do on the days they don't have school? Another issue that was brought up was should we have medically fragile teachers teaching online? The group thought that it would be helpful to have a parent survey go out that asked parents if they were planning on distance learning, homeschool or if they wanted to send their kids back to school. They felt that the district needs to know solid numbers on how many students will be coming to the buildings. Another question was what do we do about lunches, recess, buses? Can other places like the library or cafeteria work if a para took some of the kids? What about specialist? Is there fluidity between online and in class learning so if a student was out sick for a while they would be behind? The group felt that Special Education and ELL students need more direct instruction. Should they get priority over general education students? The last thing that was discussed was how do we do a split schedule or in other words a A/B schedule? Would instruction be given at school with work being sent home to study with?
Group two had a similar desire that a high-quality education is very important. Special needs students and K-3 need to attend all day face to face. They are impacted the most by that level of learning. Use A/B or staggered schedules for upper grades. Is there a potential to use off site areas in the community like churches, boys and girls club that have large open spaces? Does that option cause transportation issues?

Community survey is needed, who wants face to face, who wants to do a Parent Partnership (homeschooling) type program and who wants distance learning? This would help the district prepare for the numbers needed for in school learning.

Group three asked if there is going to be an alternate learning program like homeschooling program that the district creates that would draw the numbers of students in class down where 6ft distancing is possible? They talked about would lunch be served in the classrooms or in the cafeteria? They spoke about temperature checks and transportation. Do we use paras to take temperature checks as students get on the bus so the bus drivers don't have to leave their seats?

Group four looked at scheduling by grade level. Can we get pre-k can back to school right now at 100%? Then we looked at each grade level to see who we can bring back. It looks like we could fit all students Pre-K -3rd grade back in class looking at class sizes and numbers of students in each class. The 4th-6th grade classes are larger sizes so it would be more difficult. They didn't get to what kind of schedules would work better. The objective is to find what works best for families but provides the best educational environment for students. The district will need to be flexible with spaces, and people may have to move to a different spaces.

Group five talked about needing virtually consistency if we need to go back to online learning again so we are ready. They talked about a am/pm schedule being too hard with too many transitions. They discussed a A/B schedule Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs off Friday or Monday off since so many holidays fall on Mondays. We talked about a A/B schedule Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs and students attend on every other Friday. The last schedule the group talked about was a type of block schedule for secondary where students attend by semester. There is a need to offer a survey to parents before a decision is made and then after a decision is made to see what they think.

Group six had a lot of the same ideas. They think a poll needs to go out to parents right away to see if some parents are planning on having their kids do on-line learning. This way the district will know how many kids need to be in the classroom. Communicating with families as we go along so we can get a sense of what they are needing. We need to be creative in spaces and scheduling and looking at every possible scenario. To get as much in person education as possible. Creative scheduling to see what other spaces in the schools can be used for classroom space. Can specialist assist in teaching other subjects since class sizes will be smaller? Can the school day be shorter so that teachers can have planning time if students are not able to go to specialist? The goal is maximizing in person time for as many students as possible. No one in the group liked the idea of one week on, one week off.

Group seven talked about similar schedule of K-3 normal class schedule, and then would need to get creative with 4th-6th, and 7th, 8th and 9th- 12th groups. Talked about possibly staggered start times to help with transportation issues and getting students to school safely. In terms of creative scheduling they talked about families that have kids in various grade groups and how to make it easier for them. If there are a significant number of families not feeling comfortable sending their kids to school how can we plug them in at their home schools without them having to go into alternative education which might overwhelm the system. If there were enough students at each school per grade that didn't want to attend in person maybe one of the teachers in each grade could be the online teacher for that grade. Having consistency in education in each grade and across each school, so that everyone gets the same standard of learning.

Questions from the Group

Shawn Stevens, Executive Director of Academic Services shared with the group that through the conversation today we saw a number of themes. Our charge is to bring back to the group some data for them to consider. For example: K-3 class sizes are smaller, but we need to look at data to see what it really takes for additional teachers that may be needed to have them all on campus every day. A number of people shared utilizing other staff like specialist. We have to see how far that would reach, how many staff

would that provide to teach how many students? The goal that the district is hearing is that the group wants us to get as many students back on campus as we safely can. How do we ensure our learning for this year is consistent and the learning outcomes are more than just engaging with students? We have an academic team that will be working on meeting students' academic needs. If we don't have specialist teaching the subjects that they normally teach then we have to realize students may be missing out on those things the specialist teach, and that we may have staff that have not taught other subjects before. Mr. Stevenson said before we survey parents we have to have a clearer idea of what the school year might look like. We also know we have to have a stronger online presence for families that want to use that option. We also heard can some students attend full time even if we have a A/B schedule? For example, special education students or ELL students that this could apply for. Next week we will have more information on how schedules could play out.

Questions:

A parent asked, "What would kids be doing on the days off of school if they have a A/B schedule if their teacher is busy teaching the other half of the students in class?"

A parent stated that we have to be ready at a moments notice to go back to online learning if there is a spike or if we have people becoming ill. Whatever decision ends up being made we have to be ready to go back and forth between online and in class instruction seamlessly. Can there be an option of kids be home with a teacher streaming in the classroom?

Another parent noted that this may be the case if a student just has a cold and has to be out for significant amount of time. Streaming is a great idea so kids can go to school or learn from home.

A parent asked is the goal that students will receive the same education as they did before COVID? Is the curriculum the same as it was before, or is it only going to be a 50% education? No, we will have the same robust education as before.

Dr. Kultgen said that this group is making the big picture decisions. He also put together an Academic Team to make sure we are going to provide a quality education. The focus will be on the essential standards. We can't compare the past 3 months to what next year is going to look like. The teachers did what they were asked. Teachers were told to engage with kids. Our teachers are asking us now how to look forward. They want to teach the kids.

Closing and Next Steps

Information will be sent out mid-next week for the next meeting

Next meeting will be Thursday, July 2, 9-11am. Fill out the closing reflection and send it in to Spencer and Ms. Radek. Mr. Welch asked the group if they feeling there is a way for them to share their voice? Is it respectful. Do you feel welcome? Can you represent the community? Ensure that this process is transparent. Any more comments?

A parent asked if they are supposed to be talking to people about what is discussed at the meetings? Yes, it is ok to be talking to people about what you know. Make sure you make certain that they know the process has just started and more information will be coming. Scheduling decisions have not been made. All information regarding the Re-Opening Committee is on the district website.

Dr. Kultgen said the objective is to provide transparency about the process. Bring information back to your friends and share the work that we are doing. We are going to do a parent survey, but we need to have things a little more definitive first.