

COVID-19 TASKFORCE MEETING

May 21, 2020

*A summary of the meeting has been created, incorporating the chat from Zoom. Conversations have been chunked and answers **highlighted**. Where questions or comments were acknowledged within the meeting, or comments stood on their own, no additional information was added.*

Superintendent Polly Bove welcomed the group and explained that the emergency operations report would not be presented today. If there are changes in the future, the report will be presented. Student attendance remains high and meals continue to be provided.

Associate Superintendent of Student and Special Services Trudy Gross shared that with the update in Public Health guidelines, car parades were being planned for each school on June 4 prior to the virtual graduation ceremonies. The COVID-19 and College page on the District website now contains information about Collegewise webinars and an opportunity to add to the Frequently Asked Questions. A remote learning survey is in the process of being drafted will be sent to all students, families, and staff next week.

Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, Employee Development and Instruction Tom Avvakumovits reviewed the outcome of the progress report narrative comments (attached) and a process for students in the class of 2021 to request letters of recommendation.

From a parent to Everyone: 04:11 PM Will comments be mandatory for all teachers?

From a teacher to Everyone: 04:11 PM in infinite campus, we are limited to 3 comments per student, will we be allowed to do more than 3

From Polly Bove to Everyone: 04:11 PM both good questions we will get you the answers.

All teachers provided comments; there is a 250-character limit in the box for each course.

From a parent to Everyone: 04:12 PM Regarding the letters of recommendation: The guidance counselors said students could ask just 2 teachers to write, like in the past. Not sure how this is different from the past.

There are three differences in this year's process for letters of recommendation: site coordination with teachers about writing letters and the potential increased volume; timing of the letters; and incorporation of information about the student specific to the time of school closure.

From a student to Everyone: 04:12 PM is there an update on whether or not students would be able to include first "progress report" grades, but not the comments, or vice versa?

The Remote Learning Report will be made available to all students. It will include a school closure grade, semester 2 C/NC and comments.

From a teacher to Everyone: 04:13 PM Is there a system for tracking the 2 teachers so that students aren't asking more than 2?

From Kami Tomberlain to Everyone: 04:15 PM (Teacher), we're trying to track through the survey...(we have) a plan, though it will be challenging to be sure.

From the same teacher to Everyone: 04:15 PM Gotcha :)

From a parent to Everyone: 04:16 PM Some teachers are not convinced the progress reports are that important. Students got incorrect grade (e.g. they had an A grade on 3/13 but are now showing a B in progress report). How can this be corrected? How can we communicate to teachers that students, some at least, are taking these progress reports seriously?

Principals sent a message to their staff about the importance of the process and oversaw the process while the grading window was open.

From a teacher to Everyone: 04:17 PM Even if the letters of rec aren't any different in real life, it's a very calming message to send to kids.

From a student to Everyone: 04:18 PM I would like to know the answer to (student's) query above as well.

From a student to Everyone: 04:19 PM As would I

From a parent to Everyone: 04:22 PM And the option to include the "School Closure Grade Report" and nothing else (i.e. no commentaries, no 1st progress report grades, no subsequent grades). It might be best to plan for full distance learning, as that is a real possibility, and then if we can do some physical learning, that will be a bonus and easier to adapt to than physical to remote learning. Can we find out how full distance learning will be implemented? Specifically, how to do remote assessment, as that was the big stumbling block this semester.

More information about schedule planning will be shared at the TF meeting on 6/11. Our Teaching and Learning administrators and Curriculum Leads are putting together webinars and other resources to assist teachers in a number of aspects of remote learning, including assessment.

Polly reviewed potential scenarios for the opening of school in August. There is a consultant through public health who will be working with the 32 districts in Santa Clara County to support school reopening.

Tom shared the initial process and thinking from the work of the Bell Schedule Input Committee (attached).

From a parent to Everyone: 04:24 PM Also, UCs just announced they will have on-campus classes. We can learn some practices from them

From a student to Everyone: 04:25 PM Would the half of kids who are not at school still have remote class that day, or would they have no classes?

From Polly Bove to Everyone: 04:25 PM the hope would be that the class would be live streamed

From a parent to Everyone: 04:26 PM Even if half the kids attend school on any given day, will they still progress at the usual rate, and learn just the same amount of curriculum as before?

More information about schedule planning will be shared at the TF meeting on 6/11.

From Rachel Zlotziver to Everyone: 04:26 PM Dr. Gross will share these documents with the group following the meeting

From a student to Everyone: 04:26 PM Thank you Ms Bove

From a parent to Everyone: 04:27 PM would it be possible for each school site to poll their community about who would be comfortable attending in-person and who would not? There are some families who may not want their child to be on campus while there is still no vaccine for COVID-19.

The survey sent to all students and families asked: *In the event that local health orders allow for some combination of social distancing in schools, along with various forms of digital learning, and understanding that with all scenarios, health and safety orders would be in place and followed, which scenario(s) would be favorable to your family? Check any and all of the scenarios that apply.*

- *If allowable, I will be comfortable having my student(s) attend school for "in-person" learning.*
- *If allowable, I will be comfortable having my student(s) attend school for "in-person" learning with some online distance learning.*
- *I prefer the option of online distance learning (similar to the current practice with modifications based on what we learned this spring).*
- *I am not comfortable with any of these scenarios.*
- *Other*

An overview of the results will be shared at the TF meeting on 6/11.

From a parent to Everyone: 04:27 PM CSU has gone all online for next semester - perhaps from best practices from them on how they plan to achieve academic goals.

From Rachel Zlotziver to Everyone: 04:27 PM (Parent), we are working on this as a possible part of the survey that Polly mentioned

From Polly Bove to Everyone: 04:28 PM I have reached out to the UC's, they have a few advantages that we do not such as larger classrooms, but we need to learn what they are doing.

From a staff member to Everyone: 04:29 PM Could we not have school start at 8am every day and have 3 block periods and be done by lunch so we don't have to worry about lunch distancing

From Polly Bove to Everyone: 04:29 PM interesting possibility

From a teacher to Everyone: 04:30 PM Can we stay at home but have in person assessments so that we can get more authentic grades?

From a teacher to Everyone: 04:30 PM Honestly, I think it's easier to just plan to be on distance learning for the long term. This isn't going away anytime soon, and this on again off again style of learning can't possibility be good for students or staff.

From a parent to Everyone: 04:30 PM many families who have students in band would like to request a change to the classes for next year as this is a "high risk class" and they do not feel comfortable to have their kids in band

From the same parent to Everyone: 04:32 PM How do we give input about the needs of our individual learners? Not everyone is doing well with remote learning. We need to be able to give individual input. Thanks

More information about schedule planning will be shared at the TF meeting on 6/11.

From a parent to Everyone: 04:32 PM What (if any) coordination is happening between CUSD and FUHSD? This is in regards to working with Staff and parents who have kids in K-8.

Polly has been and continues to be in communication with current and incoming Superintendent of our feeder districts.

From a parent to Everyone: 04:32 PM Yes some physical learning will be good!

From Tom Avvakumovits to Everyone: 04:32 PM (Parent), would you feel differently about band if they met in small groups (i.e. woodwinds one day, brass another day) and they held "class" outside on the field, with sun, and significant distance? I've been talking to (music teacher) about this possibility.

From a teacher to Everyone: 04:33 PM We need to get to know the kids, it was hard enough with kids we know, let alone kids we know nothing about and I agree with Michele about testing or doing labs in person if possible

Tom shared that subcommittee meetings would be held prior to the next Task Force meeting on 6/11.

- Polly: parents
- Tom: teachers and staff
- Trudy: students

From a parent to Everyone: 04:34 PM As a parent, I would like to also hear the discussions with students and Staff to have a better idea.

This information will be made available to Task Force members.

From a parent to Everyone: 04:35 PM Personally, I already withdrew my sophomore from band at the April change round because of this. This is a question for others. I can tell you that I asked to change my son's band at (middle school).

From a parent to Everyone: 04:35 PM @(teacher): I agree that physical learning is better, but in the very likely event that that is not possible, we need to be prepared for remote assessments and remote introductions. We can't hold up learning.

From a teacher to Everyone: 04:36 PM Labs are tough too since we may not be able to use shared materials or properly sanitize materials between classes.

From a parent to Everyone: 04:36 PM (Teacher) is absolutely right and without knowing the students it is impossible to know why they are struggling and what is their best

From a student to Everyone: 04:37 PM are the progress reports all-or nothing - would students be able to choose to show the teacher comments but not their progress report grades, or vice versa?

The Remote Learning Report will be made available to all students. Students/Families may decide if they share the report.

From a parent to Everyone: 04:37 PM Thank you, Polly!

From a parent to Everyone: 04:37 PM We need to look at doing lab-like work remotely. At one college I know, labs were done by the professor video-taping herself doing the lab, and students watch the videos, and write a lab report. Not ideal, but necessary to progress.

From a teacher to Everyone: 04:38 PM Plus I think you are putting a tremendous amount of pressure on staff to be comfortable with “flipping on a dime”. There are staff childcare concerns, family obligations, mental health issues, etc. that MUST be considered and be made flexible to if we’re going to be on this off/on again approach.

From a parent to Everyone: 04:38 PM @Polly: Maybe take a survey of the Juniors to see what they want. Maybe there’s a majority wanting one kind of Progress Report.

From a parent to Everyone: 04:39 PM In general comments are very helpful for both the students and their applications

From a student to Everyone: 04:40 PM I think Ms. Bove had talked to many juniors with different views on the reports already and had already understood the concerns from all grades before making her decision

From a parent to Everyone: 04:41 PM In preparing for different scenarios next year, is there any plan on how grading will happen? Will it still be c/NC going forward? or back to traditional grading scale?

From a principal to Everyone: 04:41 PM back to traditional grades

From a staff member to Everyone: 04:41 PM Do we have to provide 7 periods?

From a parent to Everyone: 04:41 PM @Polly: Will kids be learning at least as fast as before, i.e. get through the same amount of curriculum?

From a principal to Everyone: 04:41 PM Our new Learning Management System will help us with grades as well.

From a parent to Everyone: 04:43 PM My child is actually doing better with remote learning - would you consider giving the student the option?

From a parent to Everyone: 04:43 PM Can we do remote instruction with "boost" in-person for students who are struggling?

From a parent to Everyone: 04:44 PM Well said, Tom!

From a teacher to Everyone: 04:44 PM I agree Tom. In person isn’t what we used to have.

From a teacher to Everyone: 04:45 PM I agree, as well, Tom.

From a parent to Everyone: 04:45 PM If we decided to move to a hybrid model, will that be compulsory for each staff or student to make their decisions independently due to each individual's choice?

More information about schedule planning will be shared at the TF meeting on 6/11.

From a parent to Everyone: 04:46 PM How is the budget going to affect FUHSD? the budget cut

FUHSD conducts budget planning three years into the future. CBO Christine Mallery and Polly are in constant communication. The business team is also applying for all COVID/FEMA related funding opportunities.

From a parent to Everyone: 04:46 PM Will masks be required for teachers as well? It will likely be hard to speak with a mask...

From a teacher to Everyone: 04:47 PM CDC also just announced some changes in how they think it transmits (short version—not as much as they thought via surface transfer)

From a teacher to Everyone: 04:47 PM We will use our best teacher voice with the mask on. :)

From a parent to Everyone: 04:47 PM Haha! thanks

From Tom Avvakumovits to Everyone: 04:47 PM Re: teacher masks...it's likely that the answer is "yes". However, County Health codes may change.

From a teacher to Everyone: 04:48 PM (Teacher)—we've budgeted double the lozenge allotment :)

From a parent to Everyone: 04:49 PM Are we getting into much higher expenses to adjust to the new situation? That can hurt the budget

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From a parent to Everyone: 04:50 PM If distance learning will continue - (likely) would there be the ability to review and make available resources to families to support the methods used in distance learning, to support the unique challenges of children being in front of devices to the extent they have been? I believe this would be useful. And, support to students as to thrive with activities using distance and on-line resources. Thank you.

We will continue to review and provide webinars and other resources in support of students and families.

Polly concluded the meeting with a reminder about the subcommittee meetings. The next task force meetings are scheduled for June 11 and June 25, 2020.