

School Reopening Task Force Minutes
Stonington Public Schools District Office - Board Room
July 15, 2020

Committee Members Present: Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent; Mary Anne, Assistant Superintendent; Heidi Simmons, Board of Education; Danielle Chesebrough, Board of Selectmen; Glenn Frishman, Board of Finance; Nicole Torres, Parent; Gordon Lord, Parent; Michael Freeman, Teacher/SEA President; Lily Haghpassand, Student; Beth Stewart, Executive Director COMO; Peter Anderson, Director of Facilities and Operations; Gary Shettle, Director of Finance; Allison Van Etten, Director of Special Services; Chris Williston, Director of Technology; Ana de Oliveira, Administrative Assistant; Janice Lamb, SHS Career Center; Gloria Murray-DeBiasi, Head Nurse. Members Absent: Alexander Tobiasson, Student

Survey Results

Dr. Riley reviewed the results of both the family and staff surveys. He added the surveys gave us an idea of the level of concern of both families and staff for coming back to school. The survey showed that most parents would be willing to transport their student to school. A copy of the results were shared with the committee. He reported we will be giving out another survey after the Board of Education approves the plan. We will be asking staff and families these questions again to best have a plan to reopen the school. We will be answering questions to the emails for the Board meeting on Tuesday, July 21st.

Correspondence and Communication Updates

Dr. Riley reviewed questions and answers to emails from the community and staff. He grouped the questions in five categories, personal employment issues, health protocols, instruction, facilities/equipment, general questions. The task force received copies of all questions which will also be posted on the website. He also communicated that the district through the approval of the fire marshal has purchased two 20x40 tents for each school at a cost of \$3,000. He added these will allow students to spend some time outside.

Crosswalk Document

Mary Anne Butler reviewed the Reopening Crosswalk Document shared with the committee. She explained the guidelines included in document from the Center for Disease Control, Governor's Office and State of Department of Education, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Also included were the Stonington Public Schools Plan. She noted the purpose of the document is to show how our plan aligns with the CDC and APA guidelines.

Five Plans for Reopening

Dr. Riley communicated that student and staff safety will remain most important. He reviewed each of the five proposed plans in detail with the task force committee. He explained the differences between each plan and how they meet the CDC, APA and state guidelines and costs associated with each plan. He noted we will not be able to meet the 6ft requirement on buses due to the expense and need for more buses. According to the recent family survey some parents are willing to provide transportation and therefore be able to meet 50% capacity. Dr. Riley said all students will be required to wear a mask all day and there will be mask breaks. We have implanted a committee to provide assistance on motional and social needs. We are looking at the CIAC guidelines for sports. Mark Friese and Bryan Morrone will be putting together a plan and we will be providing guidelines for all afterschool activities. We need a separate plan for these activities once a plan is adopted.

Policy Implications

Policy implications were discussed.

Feedback/Comments to the Board of Education from Reopening Task Force Committee

The task force discussed their concerns with each of the five plans. The following were some comments and areas of concerns:

- Clarification of 3ft and 6ft distancing
- Role of cohorts in each plan and at which grade level
- Bus student contact
- Uncertainty with the plans
- Tech support with the distance learning model
- Change in school calendar, school start date for 20-21
- Hot spots and bandwidth for live streaming capability
- Distance Learning percentage of participation in spring
- Temperature screening at high school level and feasibility of screenings
- PPE updates
- Plexiglas screens for one to one lessons, barriers in classrooms
- Use of monitors and paras during restroom breaks and in hallways
- Mask wearing and hand washing
- Structure of distance learning model for the fall
- Site liaison
- "COVID-19 Drill" for questions and answers
- Clubs and sports schedules
- CARE funding timeline and dollars

Dr. Riley thanked the group, and asked they talk to their constituents and bring back ideas. He added there might be an additional task force meeting and asked the group to hold August 11th as a tentative date. He commented we will be proposing to the Board to start students on the 8th of September. We will have answers to all the questions, and will share with the task force first.

Meeting adjourned at 4:41p.m.