



## Reopening School Committee Meeting Report October 12, 2020

The FPS Reopening School Committee met on October 12th. The work of this committee is to advise the superintendent on the implementation of reopening considering both health and educational needs and to undertake the tasks necessary to do so. It should be noted that the Committee is continuing the work that began with developing the July 2020 Reopening Plan, shifted to implement the Hybrid and Remote Models to open schools on September 8, 2020; and now focuses on bringing students back for full-time, in-person instruction.

### Updates:

- Mitigation: Polycarbonate desk barriers ordered and expedited for all K-5 schools; delivery expected within 10 days.
- Technology audit: Purchase orders submitted for cabling/equipment need to upgrade elementary WiFi bandwidth. Recommended equipment/costs for classroom live streaming (webcam/mics) being finalized. Work will be ongoing and will not delay return to full-time.
- Physical space needs for classrooms/lunch: Challenge to provide at least 3 feet distance in some rooms and where tables are used in place of desks (barriers required). Need to stagger lunch waves and use additional spaces to maintain at least 6 ft. distance as masks are off.
- Parent survey results/comments: 6028 students; skewed to K-5 (49%) and hybrid. Majority of current hybrid students would choose in-person, but with certain conditions (e.g., 6 ft distance, flu season, vaccine, health data, ability to switch, on-site testing, lunch plans, restrict sports). Timeline and action steps needed for parents to make informed decision
- Middle School: Working through options to address both improving remote instruction (support live streaming), and return to full time. Ongoing concerns about current hybrid remote days.

### Discussion:

*Who to bring back first:* The committee is starting work on K-5 with the understanding that a return to full-time is in the best interest of all students. Special Education is working with individual families to support struggling students and bring back those who need to be full-time.

*Considerations for elementary return:* Address supporting K-5 in-person and remote learners simultaneously by sharing best practices and providing professional development to ensure engagement and participation of remote learners, while not impacting in-person experience. Technology investment supports flexibility to move between learning models based on future changes in health data. Other districts have restricted voluntary switching through the remainder of 2020-2021; have not seen significant loss of teachers (HR has data from start of school year).

### Next Steps (by next meeting):

- Assess option to use barriers in cafeteria
- Identify parent priorities based on survey and web/link comments.
- Set date for commitment requested from K-5 parents

### Next Meeting: Monday, October 19

- Develop clear plan for return, including support for social-emotional needs of students
- Provide explicit details on plan for parents