NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

DEVELOPING EACH STUDENT'S POTENTIAL WITH A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION

Board of Education
2020 Agenda

Meeting Date: **November 23, 2020**
Virtual via Zoom

NOVI BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting – November 23, 2020
Virtual via Zoom
7:00 PM

AGENDA

   I.   **CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**
  II.   **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
 III.   **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
 IV.   **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS**
  V.   **ACTION ITEMS**
       B. Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan Reconfirmation
 VI.   **ADJOURNMENT**

DEVELOPING EACH STUDENT'S POTENTIAL WITH A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION

BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOVI, MICHIGAN
November 23, 2020

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

TOPIC: Return to School Planning: Considerations for shifting school modes

On March 12, 2020, Governor Whitmer temporarily suspended K-12 instruction and encouraged schools to provide the best alternative means of instruction.

On April 1, 2020, the Governor closed schools for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year and required schools to develop a Continuity of Learning Plan.

On June 30, 2020, Governor Whitmer published her Return to School Roadmap and Executive Order 2020-142 was issued to guide schools as they prepared for fall 2020 return to school.

On July 7, 2020, the Novi Community School District published its ROAR (Responsive Organizational and Academic Return) Plan. This plan was in response to the requirements of Executive Order 2020-142.

On July 16 and July 30, the Novi Community School District Board of Education discussed Return to School planning and preparation.

On August 6, 2020, the Board approved a Return to School recommendation.

On August 20, 2020, Public Act 149 was signed into law that required an Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan. The Novi Community School District Board of Education approved the extended learning plan on September 24, 2020.

The Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan requires that the Board of Education each month reconfirm how instruction is going to be delivered during the 2020-2021 school year.

On September 24, 2020, the board approved the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan.

On October 15, 2020, the Board voted again and extended the current hybrid/virtual learning plan until at least January 22, 2021.

On November 19, 2020, the Board voted again and extended the current hybrid/virtual learning plan until at least January 22, 2021 and authorized administration to move individual classrooms or individual schools to go virtual in the event that a quarantine would prevent classrooms from being appropriately staffed.

Before I present the recommendation for moving forward I would like to address one concern that I have heard. It has been expressed that hybrid is not working. I do not believe that this accurately reflects the effort of our teachers and the meaningful experience that is being provided.

I understand that it is possible that people could be working hard but are not successful. This is not the case with our hybrid teachers. Not only are they working hard they are having a positive impact.

I shared with the Board examples of hybrid lessons that have been created for the at-home days. These are meaningful educational experiences that support what was learning and discussed in class and prepare students for what is to come. Our teachers have done tremendous work and I have many examples of parents who are pleased with the experience for their children.

To dismiss this effort publicly and in emails is disrespectful to the teachers in our district who are creating meaningful lessons for both hybrid and virtual students. Are the experiences exactly what in-person instruction would be? No. But are they meaningful and do they help students learn? Absolutely.

We have created two meaningful learning modalities for our students –hybrid and virtual. Both are effective because of the outstanding work of our teachers.

The question before the Board of Education is what is the plan for second semester?

Circumstances have changed over the course of first semester. Recognizing that, the administration believes that it is appropriate to offer parents a chance to recommit for second semester. However, there will be impact across the district.

To demonstrate the potential impact for all students of recommitting for second semester here are two examples.

The first example, is an elementary example. A school has four third grade classrooms with a total of 93 students:

Classroom 1: Hybrid 19 students. 10 come M/Th; 9 come T/F.
Classroom 2: Hybrid 22 students. 12 come M/Th; 10 come T/F.
Classroom 3: Virtual – 26 students
Classroom 4: Virtual – 26 students

Parents recommit.

Ten hybrid parents want to go virtual. 7 from one Classroom 1 and 3 from Classroom 2.

Classroom 1 now has 12 students.
Classroom 2 now has 19 students.

Do we combine this class into one class? In a hybrid situation "A" day would have 16 students and "B" day would have 15 students. Those are manageable and safe numbers. But it would require moving students from one teacher to another.

The ten students who wish to go virtual now will have a new teacher.

Classroom 3 now has 31 students.
Classroom 4 now has 31 students.

Are those too large? Should we take one of the hybrid teachers and make them virtual?

Is it possible that a hybrid class becomes too small at one school and we have to combine it with students from another school? It could be possible.

At the secondary level, we have similar examples.

It is possible 25 8th graders would request a switch from hybrid to virtual. But those 25 students will not come from one class so hybrid numbers will go down across the board. Will they go down enough that a hybrid teacher now becomes a virtual teacher? Will we need to add a virtual teacher because virtual classes increase beyond a reasonable number?

These are the potential impacts of families recommitting.

We understood this when we had to create two earning modalities in August. The return to school would be complicated. We will try and minimize the impact but all students potentially will be disrupted.

The recommendation includes communicating to parents that this choice would last for the entire second semester. Why?

For example, in March, 2021, as a result of the decline in the number of COVID-19 cases we are offer five days of instruction for our hybrid students. If we offered the opportunity to come back to virtual students, a virtual class of 25 could have 17 students who want to come back to school fulltime.

What becomes of the 8 students left in the virtual class? That seems too small to be a class on its own. Would we combine it with another virtual class? What if that class does not meet the same hour? What if the other virtual classes have full class loads? The potential for disrupted learning is high. Is it worth it for the remaining three months of school?

Where do we spread the 17 students who want to return to school? Do we create another hybrid section? Who would teach it? The virtual teacher still has a class potentially. Would it be the same hour at the secondary level? Can we spread them into the other hybrid sections? That would mean taking one class were the students knew each other and spreading them into

classes where they would have to learn a new teacher and new students. Again, is it worth it for three months?

It has been suggested that simulcasting a class via Zoom is the answer. Zoom uses the camera on the computer. Teachers would have to stay in front of the screen for the majority of the class. This is certainly not how elementary education works. Teachers move throughout the classroom, sit on the floor, interact with students at their desk even in a pandemic.

Simulcasting might work in some subjects where the teacher is the primary focus in the class or where the teacher uses their whiteboard for significant periods of the day. But in many classes this would not work effectively.

Additionally, there is a concern that classroom disruptive behavior would be broadcast into the homes of students. We certainly do not have significant disruptive behavior but it is possible.

In conversations with teachers who use this strategy in other districts it is not seen as effective practice.

I am willing to let teachers experiment with this approach and will support it with appropriate technology if needed. But as a model for the whole school I do not endorse its use.

Finally, what is safe? The COVID-19 cases are significantly higher now than they were in August when we first moved to our two modality instructional approach. I cannot advocate returning to full classrooms, full lunchrooms, full buses, full hallways with the COVID-19 numbers this high.

In August I recommended an approach based on case numbers. We are well beyond the case numbers I recommended. Yet the spread in our school is low.

Over the first 10 weeks of the school year we had 33 cases among our staff and students. None were spread in school.

But we also had strict safety measures in place – required masks, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, increased airflow in classrooms, and, perhaps most importantly and the most significant difference between our approach and others – social distance in classrooms, in lunchrooms, on the bus.

As a result, we have not had to close buildings except for one instance at the high school early in September when contact tracing could not be completed.

So the recommendation I bring this evening takes into account safety. I am using a guide the Oakland County Health Division In-Person Instruction scale. I am not recommending bringing back students five days a week until we reach level B on that scale.

Given all of this background, the Superintendent brings to the board the following recommendations this evening:

Two options will be offered for second semester:

Virtual: A continuation of the virtual plan that has been in effect since September 8, 2020. Students attend school remotely five days a week following the regular school schedule. Wednesdays will continue to have a modified schedule to allow teachers 90 minutes of collaborative time.

In-person: In-person instruction would continue as the hybrid plan - two days in-person, two at-home days, and one all virtual day - until the county moves into Level B of the Oakland County Health Division Guidance for In-person Instruction Scale.

When the county moves to Level B on the Oakland County Health Division Guidance for In-person Instruction Scale, the hybrid instructional model would become the typical five-day a week in-person instructional experience for students. This means that Hybrid A and Hybrid B groups would combine to form one in-person class that would have typical classroom numbers and meet five days a week. Five days a week instruction would continue even if the county moves down to level C. If the county moves down to level D or E the class would switch back to the hybrid model - two days in-person, two at-home days, and one all virtual day.

Choices made for second semester will continue for the entire second semester to provide continuity in the learning experience for both students and teachers.

Virtual students would stay virtual for the entire second semester.

In-person students would stay in-person for the entire second semester.

Any changes in plan to second semester will potentially result in changes in teachers or schedules for all students. We will work to avoid changes as much as possible but it is inevitable that changes in both teacher and schedules will occur for some students.

Parents will be asked again to recommit for second semester by December 11 to either virtual or in-person learning for second semester beginning January 25.

Recommendation Four
We will examine the district from a preschool special education, K-6 and 7-12, NATC lens. Decisions may differ for these groups based on the risk level, the difficulty of creating changes, and the opportunities presented by our physical facilities.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Novi Community School District Board of Education approve the recommendations as presented.

APPROVED AND RECOMMENDED
FOR BOARD ACTION

Steve Matthews, Superintendent

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

OAKLAND COUNTY MICHIGAN
HEALTH DIVISION
DAVID COULTER
OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE

GUIDANCE FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

Updated 9/23/20

This guidance is to help schools understand the COVID-19 public health risk to make decisions about opening/ reopening schools and is subject to change at any time based on the latest information.

Epidemiologic risk is determined at the county level based on the MISafeMap (cases per million people, case rate trends, percent of positive tests, and trends in percent positivity). OCHD also reviews local healthcare capacity strengths and community testing capacity when determining risk. Visit oakgov.com/covid/schools for a weekly update of COVID-19 data.

OCHD will work with each school district to determine their place within the chart on page 2. OCHD uses case investigation and contact tracing data to assess if schools have known cases among staff or students in the past 14 days and if the building has evidence of ongoing transmission (i.e., continued spread between students and staff at the school who live in different households).

HELPFUL DEFINITIONS

• Ongoing transmission in a building: defined as multiple cases (3 or more) in students or staff occurring within a 14-day period that do not have a known source outside the school building. Schools should be tracking how and where students and staff are moving throughout the building and who they are interacting with. Consideration to whether cases within the school building that occur within 14 days of each other actually had contact with one another should be given.

• Mitigation measures: include required and strongly recommended measures in MI Safe School's Return to School Roadmap. Other innovative approaches to risk reduction may be considered from sources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or Resolve to Save Lives.

• Reduce density: hybrid instruction approach of some in person and some remote learning to ensure social distancing and learning are both possible.

• At high level of community transmission, individual buildings become early indicators of future spread and their status impacts the rest of the district.

WORKING DRAFT

NURSE ON CALL PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION
800.848.5533 NOC@OAKGOV.COM
OAKGOV.COM/HEALTH

 PUBLICHEALTHOC

The Oakland County Health Division will not deny participation in its programs based on race, sex, religion, national origin, age or disability. State and federal eligibility requirements apply for certain programs.

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

OAKLAND COUNTY MICHIGAN
HEALTH DIVISION
DAVID COULTER
OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE

GUIDANCE FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

SCHOOL BUILDING SPREAD INDICATORS

COUNTY LEVEL RISK DETERMINATION	No cases in school building	Building(s) with known cases in staff or students but no ongoing transmission	Building(s) with evidence of ongoing transmission
LOW RISK	In person allowed with mitigation measures	In person allowed with strict mitigation measures after cleaning/contact tracing	In person allowed with strict mitigation in affected buildings with cases after an appropriate pause
A	In person allowed with strict mitigation measures	In person allowed with strict mitigation measures after cleaning/contact tracing	In person allowed with strict mitigation in affected buildings with cases after an appropriate pause
B	In person allowed with strict mitigation measures	In person allowed with strict mitigation measures after cleaning/contact tracing	Consider reduced density in affected buildings with cases after an appropriate pause
C	In person allowed with strict mitigation measures	Consider reduced density in affected buildings after cleaning/contact tracing	Consider reduced density in affected buildings with cases after an appropriate pause
D	Consider reduced density allowed with strict mitigation measures	Consider reduced density affected buildings after cleaning/contact tracing	Consider remote instruction in the affected building for 28 days
E	Consider pausing (14 days) in person instruction in entire district to discuss protection strategies including but not limited to testing	Consider remote instruction in entire district	Consider remote instruction in entire district

- ● <7 cases per million; <3% percent positivity
- ● 7 to <20 cases per million; 3 to <7% percent positivity
- ● 20 to <40 cases per million; 7 to <10% percent positivity
- ● 40 to <70 cases per million; 10 to <15% percent positivity
- ● 70 to <150 cases per million; 15 to <20% percent positivity
- ● 150 or greater cases per million; 20 or greater percent positivity

Weekly COVID-19 Report

Oakland County Schools

OAKLAND
COUNTY MICHIGAN
HEALTH DIVISION
DAVID COULTER
OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE

METRIC	RESULT	Trend	DEFINITION
Total "Confirmed and Probable" COVID-19 Cases Reported in Oakland County	8511	↑	"Confirmed": laboratory-confirmed positive molecular viral test "Probable": rapid-antigen positive viral test
Cases/Day per Million Population 7-Day Average 14-Day Average	534 506	↑	Average number of cases per day per million population over the given timeframe
14-Day Average Daily Case Counts	607	↑	The average number of cases per day reported over the last 14 days of the reporting period
14-Day Average Daily Death Counts	1.4	↑	The average number of deaths per day reported over the last 14 days of the reporting period
14-Day Average Tests Per Day	6529	↑	The average number of diagnostic tests administered to Oakland residents over the last 14 days of the reporting period
Percentage of Cases Hospitalized in the Last 14 Days	0.9%	→	The percentage of cases (confirmed and probable) that reported being hospitalized over the last 14 days of the reporting period
Percent Positivity (7 days)	13.85%	↑	Percentage of reported positive tests over the last 7 days (November 10 – November 16)
Percent Positivity (28 days)	10.70%	↑	Percentage of reported positive tests over the last 28 days (October 20 – November 16)
Healthcare Capacity Strength	Strong-Average	→	Assessment of bed availability and hospital capacity
Testing, Tracing, Containment Infrastructure	STRONG	→	Assessment of testing availability and OCHD contact tracing capability
County Level Risk Determination	E	→	County level risk determination based on state guidance. Local epidemiology is also a factor in school and district-specific decision making

Total Oakland County Cases Reported by Age Group

Age Group	Total Cases	Trend	Age Group	Total Cases	Trend
0-4	109	↗	50-59	1385	↗
5-9	172	↗	60-69	972	↗
10-13	169	↗	70-79	468	↗
14-18	465	↗	80-89	207	↗
19-29	1947	↗	90+	80	↗
30-39	1319	↗	Unknown	8	
40-49	1210	↗			

The number of reported cases increased about 2600 cases from last week. Percent positivity over the last 7 days was 1.75% higher, while the percent positivity over the last 28 days was just over 2% higher. The number of tests per day over 14 days increased about 860 tests per day. The average daily deaths rate increased to 1.4 this week. Cases increased in every age group this week.