

February 23, 2021: School Reopening Community Task Force Meeting 2 Recap

Attendees:

Lisa Arbelaez, Mark Berkowitz, Dr. Tracy Breen, Scott Brown , Jeannine Carr, Dr. Tom Callahan, Jessyka Calzolaio, Julia Chung, John Condon, Dr. Jason D'Amore, Jackie DeAngelis, Alexandra Drinkwine, Mark Finegan, Trisha Fitzgerald, Dr. Steven Garcia, Susan Gilbert, Erin Ginsburg, Dr. Tiffany Hebert, Laura Hendrie, Janet Hoynes, Jim Hricay, Farid Johnson, Dr. Kusum Matthews, Stephanie Otero, Theresa Pignone, Cheri Pitamber, Rachel Pixley , Kevin Ritchie, Lynn Sabia, John Sebalos , Gail Sider, Dr. Maria Thompson, Christina Viggiano, Jessica Waters, Tara Weishaupl, Alex Wolff.

Meeting Opening/ Mission Statement

- Dr. Champ convened the meeting and introduced Kristen Burke, the co-facilitator of the Task Force.
- The Task Force Mission Statement was shared:

Pelham Union Free School District's ("Pelham Schools") policies and protocols for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic are rooted in continuing the Pelham Schools' vital mission of providing an education in a safe environment for our students, teachers and staff, as well as the entire Pelham community who interacts with students, teachers and staff.

Pelham's Reopening Advisory Task Force (the "Task Force") was created to solicit the widest array of feedback from Pelham's community, so as to provide input and feedback to the District and Board of Education on plan(s) for bringing Pelham children back to school in an environment that is safe, and which mirrors, as much as possible, the educational and co-curricular environment that existed for students prior to the advent of COVID-19. The Task Force will strive to advise the District in efforts to meet the educational and social/emotional needs of our children and protect the safety and wellbeing of the staff, while recognizing the need to adhere to appropriate laws, regulations, orders, and guidelines relating to COVID-19 to the greatest extent possible.

Our knowledge and understanding of the COVID-19 virus continues to evolve, and our policies and plans will be updated, as appropriate, as more information becomes available or as relevant guidelines, laws, ordinances are updated. Any updates to these recommendations will supersede all prior versions.

Introductions

- Members of the Task Force introduced themselves.

Proposed Meeting Dates

- Proposed meeting dates for the Task Force were shared as follows:
 - 2/23/21, 5pm
 - 3/2/21, 5pm
 - 3/9/21, 5pm

- 3/16/21, 5pm

Current Guidance on Remaining Safe and Pelham Schools Status

- Dr. Champ provided a status update on the District's current hybrid model, state and federal guidance, and important considerations for a FTIP model (Presentation Slides Attached).

Classroom Distance/Medical Discussion

- Dr. Kusum Matthews shared recent research showing that 3-foot distancing may be sufficient in the classroom when masks are worn.