

Reopening Task Force Meeting Recap

May 18, 2021, 5-6 pm

Introduction

- Dr. Champ kicked off meeting reminding us of objectives:
 - Principals/teachers update on spring reopening
 - End of year events updates
 - Break into work groups on primary and secondary space and primary and secondary virtual learning for fall reopening planning (30 minutes and then 10 minute regroup with full task force)

Principals/Teachers Update

- Dr. Champ asked the HS and MS to speak on implementation of most recent changes:
 - All HS students allowed back into the school every day (e.g. no more 1 day hybrid)
 - Removal of barrier requirement at MS and HS; Clear barriers kept at elementary
- At HS:
 - 5 days in just started 2 days ago for grades 9-11 but students and staff seem happy
 - Hallway congestion not “too bad”
 - Some kids switching from virtual to “all in” recently so confidence is building
 - Some teachers use a “class set” of barriers per their preference
- At MS:
 - The kids are happier with no barriers
 - Some teachers use a “class set” of barriers per their preference
 - More fully virtual students returning to in person learning
- At Elementary:
 - Clear barriers better than “older” ones
- All Schools
 - Are dealing with the challenges of lunch at 6 ft
 - Are taking advantage of the nicer weather with lunch outdoors

Events Update:

- If graduations kept under 200 people, the district does not have to coordinate PCR testing, vaccination or “had Covid within 90 days” verifications
- Moving up ceremonies will be two guests per student and held on Tuesday (6/22) and Wednesday (6/23) Elementary, and Thursday (6/24) Middle school. Middle School will be 1 ceremony, so health verifications are needed
- HS graduation will be unique, special and allow 4 guests per student
- A related health and wellness survey should not be perceived as intrusive and will be helpful to making the ceremony as “normal as possible”
 - Sporting events can hold 500 people outside so guidance may continue to change towards increasing capacity with graduation events

Fall Reopening Work Group Readouts

- Space at Elementary
 - Classroom space at elementary will be OK in fall with all students back
 - There was agreement that barriers will be removed
 - It was expressed that eating lunch in the classroom is not sustainable
 - The District will consult with scheduling specialist about designing a staggered lunch schedule so 1 grade level at a time can eat in the gym. Hutchinson will not have space issues given the new building with double gym and cafeteria.

- Space at Secondary
 - It is expected that classroom space will work at the middle school and high school with all students back in the fall, but it is still a concern
 - Plans for overflow / additional lunch space cannot be finalized until fall programming finalized
 - Areas of for additional lunch seating to continue to be explored: vestibule, tents, etc.
 - Lockers will not be used in the middle school next year again as it eases hallway congestion and students can carry Chromebooks-only vs. large textbooks

- Virtual Learning Elementary and Secondary
 - It is expected that most if not all students will be back in person in the fall. The District prefers all students return in person.
 - If virtual is needed:
 - Both groups determined that there would need to be early commitment by parents to virtual learning and for a significant period of time (e.g., at least a semester)
 - Both groups determined that a set criteria for virtual learning eligibility needs to be developed
 - BOCES is not an option at this time because there hasn't been a program announced
 - It will be explored if Covid money could pay for coordinators who could better connect students to Pupil Services