

NOTES FROM THE FUHSD REOPENING COMMITTEE

BREAK OUT ROOMS

1/20/22

- What are the most pressing concerns you have now that we have started the second semester and are facing the Omicron variant?
- What are you hearing from other parents/students/staff members?

Break Out Group 1: HHS Teacher, LHS Principal, MVHS Principal, Associate Superintendent, District Nurse

Pressing Concerns

Teacher: Recent CNN Article: “At Risk Activities are more risky than regular classroom”. If this relates to Band, it’s concerning, because as a Band Teacher, my cases are no higher than anyone else’s, and we’re taking all the precautions. I’m pleased that our district is continuing to do Band in a safe way.

Parent 1: Hearing that this Omicron thing is a “giant speed bump”. Parents were so concerned about their kids getting sick, but REALLY want them in class, because having that school experience has been really beneficial. The people this parent talked to want them to be in class and in activities.

Principal: reported that parents are concerned about “how to catch up” when they are sick. Parents reported that they want to be in school, and glad we’re following the CDC guidelines.

Parent 2: Don’t think about remote at all; in-person is the way to go. Notified when there is exposure is appreciated, so we know about it. But remote is not something I, or any other parent wants to go back to.

School Nurse: There was lots of mental health and eating disorder problems when we were doing remote. It’s much healthier to have students in school. The schools are doing a great job in following the protocols; but might we do a better job of expressing the importance about family gatherings.

Principal: While some parents like the contact tracing notifications, others have added that the notifications are stressing them.

Parent: “Has it been difficult to find subs?” Associate Superintendent: YES - and shared more info about the challenges. The principals added specifics including, “it’s important to reassure students who are sick to indeed stay home, but that we’ll support you when you come back.” Messaging that has been important, for the adults to reassure students.

Break Out Group 2: FHS Student, LHS Parent, FHS Principal, District Coordinator, Chief Business Officer, Trustee, District Nurse, LHS Staff Member

- Student: Questions from students about whether school is possibly going to move to a remote model, a lot of students were scared for their safety over the past few weeks as

Omicron cases rose, but also many other students were concerned that if we moved to remote we wouldn't come back all year (replay of the situation from March 2020-April 2021)

- Jarring to see the number of students missing in class
- Even with all the concerns, most students prefer in-person model overall
- Concerns by students around other students who weren't staying home when they had a positive case in the home (family member tested positive)
- Questions from students on why quarantining isn't considered an excused absence
- District Nurse: Hearing from families whose children have health conditions who want an option for hybrid or online learning, also hearing concerns around mental health for both students and staff
 - Encouraging focus on vaccination and proper masking
- Parent: A lot of parents concerned about their children's mental health and behaviors, parents commenting that students share that their friends just don't seem to be the same as they were pre-COVID
- Staff Member: A lot more parents calling in about their children's anxiety around coming to school and not feeling comfortable being in person. Some of the anxiety is caused by the close contact letters. Some other schools and districts have now switched to say "assume you are a close contact."
 - We also have had parents who are asking about vaccination status for those in their children's classes. They want to know why we aren't yet enforcing vaccination at school/district level.
 - Some families afraid to send their school until they are fully boosted.
- Principal: Concerns from staff about how do we support students when they are missing multiple days of school. Finding balance between having appropriate expectations for classes and not causing additional stress when people are sick and need to rest.
- Trustee: Has heard some concerns about vaccination from parents, families who don't want to do the booster if their child had had some side effects. We need to encourage boosters and vaccination, but also have to keep the perspectives of others in mind.
 - How do students who miss class time make it up without missing the learning?
 - Principal: Schoology has been a great help in this situation. Most classes have made materials and assignments available online. It's not the same as being in class, but it still helps prevent students from missing all the content.

Break Out Group 3: HHS Student, CHS Parent, CHS Parent, FHS Parent, HHS Parent, FHS Teacher, HHS Teacher, HHS Principal, Trustee, Associate Superintendent

Pressing Concerns:

- Parent: Hearing from parents that they are concerned about receiving notifications daily about close contacts, seems like it is too much (this is what Polly alluded to in that we are doing something that is not required but because of the surge and the numbers involved, we should all consider ourselves in contact; however, we made a commitment to keep the notifications going but want feedback on how our community is feeling about this)
 - Regardless of frequency, parents should be receiving these notifications in order to make decisions, informed decisions

- As a teacher I do appreciate the notifications, would be helpful to have testing on Fridays in the afternoon for peace of mind over the weekend as it is hard for some staff to get free in the morning
- Parent: How do we differentiate between flu and COVID symptoms; when should we test? (If runny nose or congestion alone, test not needed. If a number of COVID symptoms together then the person should test)
- Parent: Is it ok for family members to test at FUHSD sites even if they are not students in our district (yes, but we are starting to check for connection to the district because of the number of people seeking tests)
- Parent: Regarding the at-home antigen tests, will the district provide more of this? (this came from the state and was based on enrollment, we are trying to see if the state will continue to provide)
- On the teacher side of things, doing our best to support students who are missing school, trying to provide material and empathy, using PLC time to make these accommodations
- Teacher: Admin and Deans are stretched really thin because of the work needed to be done surrounding COVID
- Parent: Hearing from own kids and their friends that they are over it, Omicron is mild and not like the scary times from before, people want to move on, is the district obsessed with this and out of balance with our other priorities; takes up a lot of the focus and mindset, which we should be doing but would like to see less of a focus and get back to normal school life (there is a difficult trade off that we provide information and safety)
- Substitute situation is difficult, it's hard to take on subbing as it would also put me more at risk, is there anything else being done at the district level to get more subs or increase their pay (we have raised sub pay, raised hourly pay for staff to cover, but there is strain on the system)
- Student: Testing -- giving kits really helps, did a school do a forced testing with the testing kits, if we did this it might help identify kids or staff who are asymptomatic

Break Out Group 4: HHS Teacher, CHS Parent, CHS Principal, Deputy Superintendent, Superintendent

Concerns:

- Positive cases, even asymptomatic, have to isolate. How can we support students better?
- This will definitely happen again at other breaks.
- Some teachers have posted their PowerPoints online and found other videos to post with the lessons.
- The upside to remote learning is that most of us have everything digitally.
- The shortened quarantine for some kids is easier.
- Still have some kids who are staying home because they are “scared”. Makes it too much for teachers to have 2 classes. Could these kids be moved to the IS cohort?
- Omicron came up quickly; getting notifications left and right...unsettling. Perspective is that into week 2, the testing that we have, when it's available, takes that fear of not being tested off the table. Had to upgrade, school is now providing. Both of these things help mitigate and put everything in place...came together in organized way and it puts me at ease.
- On behalf of the district, we have too few subs. Hard to cover. Every day we have teachers out and we don't have subs.

- How will it work in future breaks, could we provide onsite testing before the first day returned...or can we distribute test kits...they think they will have to use a combination of parents ordering from the gov't and us ordering some...try to keep as much testing as possible on campus.
- Encourage families to order the ones that are available from the gov't.
- Parent: just a reminder, when we come back from a week break, get yourself tested!
- If you have symptoms or you don't, get tested before you come back.
- Many, many teachers giving up preps to sub for others. Exhausting. Simplify.

What are you hearing from others?

- Some pushing for remote learning and complaining about lack of distance learning
- We appreciate the district.
- Fear of being left behind...a lot to catch up on...support them more?
- Can we set up student study groups? Online office hours? Could get some questions answered.
- Teachers are already super busy with those students who are coming back...maybe teachers could open a zoom call at some point...would not take back an in-person tutorial.
- Is it a possibility to have students who are attending the class record the class and make it available? It was easier on Zoom...
- Many teachers are making lessons available on Schoology
- Deputy Superintendent: I was surprised ...not as bad in our district as it's being reported in other districts. Usually, we have 94-95% of students present. COVID days, we're almost normal at LHS. 88-89% at the other schools.
- Teacher: tutorials now so important to us, if I have a kid coming back...I would suggest that giving kids the tutorial time rather than the mandatory advisories.