

Superintendent's PIE
November 12, 2020
5:00 P.M.
Remote Meeting Held on Zoom

Superintendent Brad Crozier began the meeting by passing along a few operational notes to the parents present. Mr. Crozier first explained that the FirstView app will be activated after the Thanksgiving break, allowing parents to once again begin tracking busses. Mr. Crozier also informed all those present that notes were being taken of this meeting for future publication on the SPS website.

- Question 1: Will there be any consideration to bringing younger learners to school more than 2 days per week (if only after the current COVID spike)?
 - This is not yet feasible with the social distancing guidelines issued by the CDC. Once convincing evidence is available that anything below 6' is safe, this will be given additional consideration.
- Question 2: When will the full family survey results be published, and when will SPS respond to the parents' concerns contained within those results?
 - No additional results will be published. The materials provided in the School Committee Agenda Packet were final. The intent of this survey was to establish baseline data to compare future survey results against. The next survey will go out after the Thanksgiving break.
 - This survey was sent out early in the school year, when students had only experienced limited interactions with their teachers and curriculum. SPS will address concerns after further data is collected later in the school year.
- Question 3: Other districts near Sudbury are beginning to bring younger students back into the classroom more frequently. What's the difference between SPS and those other districts?

- There are two main differentiators: class sizes and building sizes. Sudbury's larger class sizes and smaller buildings complicate efforts to bring students into the classroom while maintaining social distancing protocols. Superintendent Crozier performed a space analysis over the summer which can be accessed by [clicking here](#) and scrolling down to page 10 of the presentation PDF.
- Question 4: Have gyms, art rooms, cafeterias, etc., been considered as alternative learning locations for in-person learning?
 - Yes, all options in the schools and other town buildings have been reviewed as possible learning locations. Spaces in the schools, like gyms, art rooms, etc. are currently being used by teachers and staff who are working with students on their remote days.
- Question 5: Is the district still committed to ensuring students are at grade level after a spring in which there was no synchronous learning, and a fall in which it has been limited?
 - The district is focused on assessing student progress and shortcomings, and will be re-evaluating each subject's scope and sequence in response to that information.
- Question 6: What are the parameters that will be used to determine if/when students return to in-person learning?
 - The district is contemplating options for allowing students to return, including offering families the choice to send their children to school more than twice per week. A change in CDC social distancing guidelines would also change the factors being considered.
- Question 7: What metrics, data, and protocols will the district rely upon when implementing a full-remote model?
 - Data on COVID spread in the schools and local community will be paramount, including on the number of staff and students that may be considered "close contacts." Before a district-wide full remote model is implemented, individual cohort, grade-level, or schools will be placed in quarantine.
- Question 8: How are "close contacts" identified?

- SPS works with the Board of Health to determine who is deemed a “close contact.” Room arrangement, grade level, and other details are included in this analysis. Fifteen cumulative minutes during a 24 hour period within 6’ of a positive individual is the current standard.
- Question 9: Is there anything being done to prevent teacher burnout?
 - Staff survey results are being reviewed to see how teachers can be better supported, including increasing coordination between teachers to create efficiencies in lesson planning and creation. Additionally, discussions were had with teachers during the November 3 PD Day, on what was going well and areas that could be improved to streamline teachers efforts.
- Question 10: What is the district doing in planning for additional social-emotional support for students?
 - SPS has done several “parent professional development” seminars, which are available on the SPS website. Concerned parents should contact their child’s teacher or principal to discuss an individualized solution for their child.
- Question 11: Have there been any unanticipated challenges, and how have they been resolved?
 - Transportation has posed the greatest challenges, given social distancing guidelines. This was abetted slightly by the number of students being dropped off or walking to school, but ridership may increase as the weather gets colder.

Before the meeting concluded, there was also unstructured discussion about how families would respond if SPS was to drop its social distancing requirements from the CDC recommended 6’ to 4’ or the DESE recommended 3’. Several parents expressed apprehension and could not commit to keeping their children enrolled in the hybrid model in the event that this change is made.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 P.M. The next PIE meeting will be on December 3rd at 9:30 AM. The remote meeting link will be sent via email the week of the meeting.