

Superintendent's PIE
January 14, 2021
5:00 P.M.
Remote Meeting Held on Zoom

Superintendent Brad Crozier began the meeting by welcoming the community members present, passing along a few updates, and explaining the procedures for the meeting. Superintendent Crozier informed those present that a communication will go out to families tomorrow (1/15/21) about the Abbot Labs rapid antigen testing for COVID-19. These tests will be restricted to students who develop symptoms during the school day. The hope is to begin administering tests as soon next Tuesday, after families register and give consent. Superintendent Crozier also explained that the State is offering six weeks of free pool testing; the district has indicated interest, but there is more training and information to be gathered before the can commit to the program.

Questions From Participants:

- Questions 1: Is there a set number of infections that will lead to the closure of a school?
 - The most important determinant is in-school spread. There is not a defined number of infections that will trigger a cohort or school closure.
- Question 2,3: Is there an update on the recent parent survey results? Is the district targeting five days in school for this year or next, given that teachers will soon be offered access to the COVID vaccine?
 - The district continues to look to the CDC guidance for distancing, which remains at 6' at this time. As vaccine rollout continues, the district will continue to monitor this metric and any recommendations from the CDC and State. Budgeting for FY22 was done around the presumption of full in-school attendance.
 - Parent survey results will be shared at the January 25, 2021 School Committee meeting.

- Question 4: Will the district look at data from other districts and/or countries in regards to distancing guidelines?
 - Superintendent Crozier is reviewing results from other districts and areas where less than 6' social distancing was implemented. Anecdotal results show some spread in those communities.
- Question 5: At the elementary and middle school level, how has sports impacted the spread of COVID-19?
 - SPS is not currently running any sports, but is participating in all contact tracing efforts related to students' outside extracurricular activities. The Board of Health is advising the creation of protocols for all town sports, with a goal of mitigating spread amongst students.
- Question 6: What will be the focus of the upcoming professional development day?
 - The focus of the day will be on equity, complete with a keynote speaker and grade level-specific breakout sessions and workshops.
- Question 7: Will the district send a letter about a student who tests positive, but is full-remote?
 - Yes. In the name of transparency, the district reports to the community on all students who test positive, but does not indicate the learning model the student is participating in.
- Question 8: Are the windows in classrooms still being opened for ventilation?
 - Yes, the windows in classrooms are still being opened. Additionally, set points on the HVAC have been opened to allow for greater air circulation between inside and outside. Lab-grade air filters are also still in place and were replaced just before students returned from winter break.
- Question 9: Will MCAS be administered this year?
 - DESE is planning on administering a modified (shortened) MCAS test this spring. This may change pending guidance from the new federal Department of Education and the Biden Administration.

- Question 10: Have expectations for student progress changed relative to where students are typically expected to be, and how is this being assessed and addressed?
 - Several formative assessments that were previously removed from the district for budgetary reasons have been restored. The district will be introducing a new summer program to help students that need to catch-up on unfinished learning from the spring.
- Question 11: Will the Extended School Year programs be held in person or remote?
 - Current planning is in-person programming, though the school hosting it has not yet been determined. The district is developing this alongside the new summer program in an effort to synergy and budgetary efficiency.
- Question 12: What feedback have you received regarding teacher morale over the last couple of months?
 - In conversations with teachers and principals, there have been ups and downs. Staff is doing everything they can to stop the spread, so it is disheartening to see so many cases identified and announced. Additional students in quarantine means additional work for teachers, as well.
- Question 13: What investigations are done into close contacts in schools?
 - Once a positive case is identified, the School administration, nurse, and the Board of Health begin to trace where the student sits in the room, what his or her schedule looked like, where the student sat on the bus in relation to the other students, etc. The standard for a close contact is being within 6' for 15 minutes (cumulative) or longer over the course of a full day.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:48. The next PIE meeting will be on February 4, 2021, at 9:30 A.M. The remote meeting link will be sent via email the week of the meeting.