

## **Superintendent's PIE**

**February 04, 2021**

**9:30 A.M.**

### **Remote Meeting Held on Zoom**

I. Superintendent Brad Crozier began the meeting by welcoming the community members present, passing along a few updates, and explaining the procedures for the meeting.

1. Superintendent Crozier discussed his decision-making process regarding snow days, noting that the district has had one remote learning snow day and one traditional snow day.

Anticipated snowfall, wind speeds, and power outages are all considered when deciding which type of closure to enact. The final day of school is currently scheduled to be Friday, June 18, 2021.

2. On the subject of pooled COVID-19 testing, the State recently announced that it will be funding 6 weeks of pooled testing. The District has submitted an application to participate in this 6 week trial, with the intention of continuing testing through the end of the school year. Superintendent Crozier then described the testing process in detail and anticipated supports that will be necessary.

3. Regarding a return to full-time, in-person learning for students, Superintendent Crozier noted that the focus is still on safety. Recent CDC updates have been directed toward districts that have been full remote, not those like SPS, which have been in a hybrid model. The CDC guideline for social distancing remains at 6'.

#### II. Questions From Participants

1. If the CDC lowered the distancing guidelines to 3', are there enough desks and other supplies for the return of students? i. Ensuring that proper resources are available is part of the reopening process, and families will be provided images of what learning environments will look like prior to students returning. Different uses for equipment and seating arrangements are being considered by the administration.

2. Would the administration consider having the middle school return to

in-person before the elementary schools?

- i. The youngest students are the ones having the most difficulty in the hybrid/remote environment, so if there is a phased approach, it is likely to see elementary students returning before those in middle school.
3. How are students performing against benchmarks?
  - i. The same grade level standards are being applied, and summer programming is being devised to assist students that need additional time and support. Interventionists are also being assigned as necessary. These measures match staff members' recommendations.
4. In regards to pooled testing, does it tend to return more positive results, and if so, does that trigger any changes in how they will be handled?
  - i. Since asymptomatic individuals will be tested, there could be some additional positive cases identified. The same guidelines around using school/cohort-spread data will be used to make strategic mitigation decisions.
5. Can districts implementing less than 6' of social distancing be identified?
  - i. The number of districts using less than 6' was used, not the specific districts themselves. The State has not, to Superintendent Crozier's knowledge, published any such list and the information has only been collected anecdotally through conversations with other superintendents.
6. Is there any way teachers, on a grade level basis, could create optional summer learning plans for students?
  - i. Every district has summer learning options, and the District will ensure these learning opportunities are communicated to parents prior to the end of the year.
7. Is the curriculum for the upcoming grade level posted online, so that families can work toward it over the summer?
  - i. The [sudburystudents.org](http://sudburystudents.org) website has standards and curriculum maps available. For additional information, parents are invited to contact the Curriculum Directors directly via email.

8. Would it be possible to have the Family Survey Results shared district-wide?
- a. Superintendent Crozier will investigate options for sharing these results. The presentation given to the School Committee on January 25, 2021 is posted on the SPS website under “School Committee Presentations and Plans,” and is also available by [clicking here](#).
9. With respect to the survey results, is the feedback being used to adjust the learning model or to make other changes?
- a. The results are being used to adjust factors that are under the district’s control such as materials pick-up times, communication, and engagement.
10. Has any comparison been made between how the students in the remote model and those in the hybrid model are performing? a. Not yet, but Superintendent Crozier will look into whether these comparisons are appropriate and, if so, how they can be done.
11. What difference is there in planning for the coming year between what’s happening this year and how it goes in a normal year? a. The budget process is now just about complete, and attention has turned to staffing needs and mitigation supports. Contracts in any case are not offered until June, after Town Meeting approves the budget, so that much of the process has not yet been impacted.
12. What is being planned for students transitioning from SPS to LSRHS?
- a. Some of the same practices that were implemented last year, including video conferencing and other remote support options, will likely return this spring. This topic will be discussed with ECMS Principal Jeff Mela, and parents should look for further information in the Curtis Connection newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:22 AM. The next PIE meeting will be on March 11, 2021, at 5:00 P.M. The remote meeting link will be sent via email the week of the meeting.