

3. Talking Points for School Leaders as School Opens

Team Leader(s): Regina Armstrong, James Clark, Allan Wakefield

Task Force Members: Carmen Ayala, LaMont Johnson, Randy Stith, Patricia Spleen, Robert Hodge, Nicole Epstein, Patricia Wright

Considerations	Plan 1 – Return to School	Plan 2 – Blended & Remote
As we consider opening schools, please be aware that health and safety for students and staff is our top priority.		
As this process unfolds, we anticipate additional guidance from the state and federal governments. We will be following all state and local guidelines that are implemented as we re-open our schools,		
We understand there may be a number of questions. We encourage you to reach out to your administrators in the district and we will do our best to address questions as the information is made available.		
This is an emotional time for all of us, and we recognize the stress that re-opening has on staff, families and students. (Share examples of standard and recently developed social-emotional supports that are in place).		
<p>Other suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highlight important things in the district re-opening plan that the community needs to know - Provide talking points for teachers, parents, food service, support staff and transportation staff members so they can communicate with a consistent message to families. (This can include district-level information as well as information specific to their role or building). 		

Meeting Minutes

3. Talking Points for School Leaders as School Opens June 10, 2020 2:30 p.m.

Attendees: Regina Armstrong, James Clark, Allan Wakefield, Peter LaDuca, Randy Stith, (718) 309-7763, Robert Hodge, Carmen Ayala, LaMont Johnson, Patricia Wright

↳ Nicole Epstein

James Clark opened the meeting with the topic of discussion on what we need to do to reopen the schools.

RA: Thank you JC for setting up these meetings. It was put out on the district website to invite the public to participate as well. The goal of these meetings is to make sure that we are ready to reopen the schools. We talk about what is needed to do to reopen the schools and what we have to do to move forward. It is going to be very different next year. SED has not provided any outline yet for us to go by. SED says we need the plans in place by July 15th. To recap on what we have already discussed at the other meetings: Entry points, medical staff, isolation rooms, types of thermometers. There has been lots of discussion but no resolve.

JC: To PL. Can you give us any guidance?

PL: No direction yet from the SED. I sent out a very good guide from California. Nothing from New York yet. We are struggling until we hear from the state

JC: We are looking at 17 different areas that we have to consider in order to reopen the schools

RA: We spoke of Mental Health as a topic of concern. BOCES has a team. Winsome Brown-Cooke will be the liaison. The Social Workers already made a newsletter regarding where to go to get help. We are working on what the classrooms will look like. 10-12 students per classroom. My sister works for Dept of Ed. They say no more than 9 per classroom. It is difficult to move forward without a plan from the state, but we must. There was talk about making this an elementary district but we would have to double our staff. We

need to discuss a normal reopening, total remote or blended environment. AM/PM schedule? Do those minutes count for the school year, etc.?

CA: Are there any parent or community members on the task force yet?

RA: We put it out on the website. We have had a couple of responses but not enough

JC: We have the CET, PTA, Community Agencies on some of the task forces. If you know of any parents that would like to be part of it, please let me know. Do you think it is possible to reopen schools?

RS: It will require a large amount of money if state says to reopen. We should explore virtual first. We should play it more slowly than other districts. We are already overcrowded and short-staffed. Security should be trained as first responders

RA: We spoke about that. It is not in violation of civil service. BB is looking into it.

JC: They are trained in AED. We will look into. Facilities is a key component in reopening the schools. AW, would you like to say a few words?

AW: We have talked about PPE, supplies and materials. We have been stocking up for staff, and if required, will stock for students. Cleaning has been increased since the pandemic began. We have a two-step cleaning process. Clean first, then disinfect. We all need to "adjust and adapt". The norm is no longer the norm. We will have to reallocate and reassign staff. For example, if we eat in the classrooms, cafeteria staff is freed up to do other assignments. HVAC. We are going through all the buildings. We have been cleaning them yearly. Now they will have to be cleaned more often, 3-4 times a year. It is not a guarantee against COVID, but it may help against mold and spores. Hand Sanitizer. We cannot have large quantities of alcohol-based hand sanitizer in classrooms and hallways. It is flammable. We will continue to supply it. We are looking into a BIO based hand sanitizer. We need policy to determine

PL: You need a script from BOCES Medical Director for 60% plus alcohol-based hand sanitizer. And it must be used under supervision

RS: Who is the Medical Director?

RA: Susan Kowell, Dr. Reid. They are our district physicians

RS: Please forward the name of the medical director

PL: Every school is required to have a medical director. Most schools do not have one. A medical doctor or nurse practitioner can serve as one. It depends on what the district designates

RS: FYI. BB is a nurse practitioner. We can kill two birds with one stone

CA: Should we have a designee going forward?

PL: Yes. Many districts do not have one. If you need assistance, let me know. We are helping other districts as well

AW: We have many questions and concerns but no resolve. We are researching thermometers to take temps. The problem is you can have COVID with no temperature, and a temperature without COVID. We can't go forward until we have guidance.

JC: Our tech department plays a very important role in returning to school and in a blended environment. Getting devices to all the students is critical. Teacher training is critical

RA: We have entered Phase 3. Those students that don't have devices will get them. I asked AA is she needs more staff. We need to train the parents too. We have two people that would like to donate devices to our district. Someone from the SED and from the Village of Hempstead. I heard that students should be able to get free internet access from the village, that towers were being put up

LJ: The village is putting up 5G towers. Not to benefit the community, just government

CA: That will increase the bandwidth, but not necessarily access. Have you been in contact with the CDA for more resources?

RA: I spoke with Renfro from the village. We misunderstood about the towers. We have to speak with them about putting up towers for our district's use. Upstate areas with little service put them on busses. In rural areas they park there all day so the kids get access.

CA: Has AA been involved in these meetings?

JC: Yes she has. If we reopen in September, we may be closed again by November

RA: Other parts of the country opened too soon. Some brought back elementary only, but that did not work. We have to be all out or all in

CA: What are the colleges doing?

RA: Superintendents are working with colleges so students are not penalized for things they didn't have, i.e., the SAT scores

CA: Are they inviting freshman back?

RA: Only one. NCC. Free summer virtual sessions. They feel a lot of students won't return. Many students are taking classes at a cheaper college until things return to normal

JC: I read an article about how parents feel about the fall. One third of parents say we must open the schools so they can return to work (childcare). One third of the parents will not send their kids to school and the last third would like to see a blended environment

RA: We have created a survey for parents that will be sent out. Staff may say that they don't want to come back, as well

PL: At BOCES only 50% staff back at one time. There are two possible scenarios in the fall. We have no new cases, or we have a horrible outbreak as well as the flu

RA: Hempstead has the highest rate of COVID in Nassau

LJ: Pandemic is not over. I would appreciate it if board members would wear their masks

RA: We cannot let our guard down.

RS: We still have to follow the 6' rule. Pandemic is still an issue. There is nothing wrong with asking someone to put a mask on

JC: It is a matter of life and death now

LJ: People need to comply

RA: Thank you all for coming and for your input. We want the public to know we are moving forward with a plan