



Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2020

Location: Zoom meeting

Attendees:

Michael Shoaf, Superintendent	Elizabeth Anderson, Assistant Superintendent
Jennifer Norman, Executive Director	Sam Gifford, Executive Director
Bryan Drost, Technology Director	Greg Murphy, Communications Director
Ruth Beach, BOE Representative	Addie Olander, BOE Representative
Rob Winton, RRHS Principal	Heath Horton, RRHS Asst. Principal
Brian Gergely, RRHS Asst. Principal	Mark Wagner, Athletics/Activities Director
Jeff Schultz, RRMS Asst. Principal	Todd Murphy, KIS Principal
Carol Rosiak, GPS Principal	Tara Zbin, RRECC Principal
Erin Peacock, Transportation Supervisor	Lori Brant, Booster Co-President
Tina Wasserbauer, Food Services Supervisor	Dave Opdycke, Union President
Christopher Camp, School Resource Officer	Meghan Hazra, medical professional
Lynne Eversman, medical professional	Bill Blough, RREF President
George Eversman	Michael Coyne, Saber Health Group
Mandy Smith, PTA	Lindsay Barbicas, PTA
Margie Hackett, PTA	Megan Alexander, PTA
Kelly Frindt, PTA	

Purpose

The purpose of the Steering Committee is to create a plan that the Rocky River City School District can present to the County Board of Health and Board of Education for reopening the school district in the Fall of 2020.

Healthcare updates

Dr. Lynne Eversman shared:

- Cuyahoga County has more than 14,000 cases.
- Cases are down 6% from last week, a new trend compared to last few weeks.
- Pediatric cases are up 90% from last month, cases tend to be less severe than adults.
- Positive rate is currently highest in 5 to 17-year olds.
- There are multiple strains of COVID that behave similarly.

- Current concerns: not enough testing, quality of tests not very high, especially if asymptomatic.
- FDA has developed a new antigen saliva test, but accuracy is unknown.
- If a person tests positive, it is not recommended to continue testing until a negative test comes back as tests can pick-up fragments of the virus even though it is no longer active.
- If positive, quarantine for 14 days until all symptoms are gone.
- 150-200 vaccines are being tested now and 7 of them are in Phase 3.
- New concern about long-term effects on heart, brain, kidneys.
- Seeing resurgences in places virus was under control (Italy).
- Continue to wear masks (over the age of 2), maintain social distance and wash hands.
- Encouraged to get flu shot as soon as they are available.
- Keep all athletics/activities low-risk, properly spaced and outside when possible.

Dr. Lynne Eversman was asked what the recovery rate is for children who have COVID-19.

- Most kids recover, high 90%.
- Problem is asymptomatic patients could have heart problems and/or virus can attack multiple systems.

Masks/Face Coverings

Dr. Lynne Eversman shared:

- Anyone over the age of 2 should wear a mask.
- Gaiter/bandana are not as effective, particles can go through the small openings and come out.
- Cotton/poly, 2-layer mask is effective.

Re-Opening Guidance

Dr. Shoaf shared:

- First day of school for students will be August 31 in the Closed (Red) Model.
- Will continue to monitor Cuyahoga County risk level and data.
- If County moves to a different level, will look at possibility of transitioning to Hybrid (Yellow) Model.

Small Group In-Person Instruction

Ms. Norman shared:

- Preschool will have small group, in-person instruction for students with needs.
- There will be less than 10 people in each room at all times.
- All safety protocols (screenings, masks, hand washing, social distancing) will be in place.

Athletics & Activities Update:

Mr. Winton shared:

- Athletics practices are going well and coaches and students are following protocols.
- Golf, tennis, volleyball are in Phase 4 and have been cleared for competition.
- Cross country expected to be cleared for competition on August 24.
- Football and soccer are in Phase 3 with full practices, but no scrimmages or competition.
- Governor DeWine is expected to make an announcement about contact sports on August 18.

Mr. Wagner shared:

- Band camp has started and all protocols are being followed.
 - Small groups are working together throughout campus.

- Band members are spaced 7 ½ feet apart when everyone is together.
- River's Edge had a show choir camp over the weekend that went well.

District and Building Reopening Plans:

Dr. Shoaf shared:

- The District and building reopening plan booklets have been sent to the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.
- The CCBH will make recommendations for the District plan, but will not review building documents.

Information About County Risk Level:

Dr. Lynne Eversman shared:

- If the county moves a risk level (i.e. from Red down to Orange), the district should wait a minimum of two weeks to ensure consistent improvement before making a decision to switch instructional models.
- The 2 week time frame allows enough time to make sure the trend/pattern is consistent.

Breakout groups to discuss:

1. Remote Instructional Model – first day of school August 31 (when to move to Hybrid)
2. Small group instruction, testing – in-person
3. Activities and athletics
4. Input regarding building and department reopening plans

Dr. Shoaf's group shared:

- Keep reviewing risk level and data when making decision to move to Hybrid.
- Review other school districts data who are reopening.
- If moving to Hybrid, parents/guardians still have option to choose remote learning.
- A parent called CCBH and was told they will not be changing their recommendation about remote learning until there is a vaccine.
- Small group in-person learning is a great concept for preschool students. Must do it safely and follow all guidelines.
- Great to see students back for athletics/activities.
- Coaches and students are doing what we ask them to do and continue to follow all safety guidelines.

Ms. Anderson's group shared:

- Starting the year in remote learning is the right decision.
- When making a decision to move to Hybrid, a 2-week minimum is need to ensure numbers are continuing to go down.
- Expressed concern about jumping back and forth between instructional models if proper due diligence is not done.
- Like the idea of small group, in-person learning. This group of students need it. Ensure it is done safely.
- Good to see students back on campus and physically active with athletics/activities.
- Must continue to keep it low-risk with proper protocols.
- Keep questioning before practice about symptoms and ask if anyone at home is sick.

- Concerns about being in Hybrid model and contact sports playing could cause a constant flip between instructional models if there are spikes.

Ms. Norman's group shared:

- Use data and numbers over the course of a few weeks when deciding to move models.
- Parents and students are eager to get back into the classroom
- There is a lot of comfort with the Hybrid model.
- Use data from other districts who are beginning the school year in-person.
- Fantastic idea to have small group, in-person learning for preschool and target those students with needs.
- Feel good about athletics/activities. Continue to keep it low-risk.

Erin Peacock noted the Southwest Conference, which includes Westlake, is planning to play sports.

Dr. Shoaf noted that the conference includes schools in both Cuyahoga and Lorain counties.

Ms. Anderson shared an update on testing:

- Looking to develop plans for testing (hearing and vision, 3rd grade guarantee, local benchmark testing, SAT, ACT, etc.).
- Continue to do things we normally do to help understand where students are, like possibly bringing K-5 students in for local benchmark testing.
- Will do this in small groups, socially distanced and follow all safety protocols.

Mr. Gifford's group had similar thoughts to previous groups.

- Lack of testing is a concern.
- Concern about contact tracing and if Board of Health will be able to do what they say they will do.

Mr. Winton's group had similar thoughts to previous groups.

- Transition to Hybrid model when county risk level moves to orange.
- PSAT must be taken in-person.
 - RRHS can do this with proper social distance.

Summary

Dr. Shoaf will continue to share information as it becomes available.

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, August 20, 2020, 6 pm, RRCSD Board of Education Meeting.

- Meeting will be in-person in Professional Development Center.
- Video recording of meeting will be posted online.

Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 5 pm, RRCSD Board of Education Committee of the Whole Meeting.

- Meeting will be in-person in Professional Development Center.
- Video recording of meeting will be posted online.

Monday, September 14, 2020, 5 pm, Rr 20/20 Vision Committee Meeting.