

7/31/20 @ 3:00 – School Reopening Task Force Meeting

In Attendance (In-person): George Essler, Angie Duncan, Nala Chambers, Terry McCutchen, Brittanie Brown, Kendra Bennett, Scot Clayton, Paige Liggett

(Virtual): Michael Smiley, Derek Leach, Debra McClure, Sarah Scribner, David Smith, Annie Sims, Annie Gunter, Jana Fletcher, Jessica Hoffman, Joy Schaffner, Julia Crain, Merileigh Johnson, Michael Johnson, Nicki Holbert, Virginia Gaskey

Mrs. Bennett discussed norms, procedures, and purpose of the task force. There were several updates this week from TEA/CDC. The family survey results and explanations were sent out to parents and posted on the website this week. There's a webpage dedicated to the Strong Start (Back to School) information. That web page has a dedicated email address for questions and FAQ. Emails and texts were sent to parents letting them know about the website and how to access the plan. It was also posted on social media.

Updates to the public health guidance was posted on Tuesday afternoon. HISD's plan was updated with the latest information before it was sent out. The Commissioner has already said that the guidance will likely change again next week. If so, our plan will be updated when we receive the latest guidance.

Feedback/Discussion from items brought up last week:

Lunches brought to school—Mr. McCutchen revisited the discussion from last week about if a student forgets their lunch and the parent brings it in. He has spoken with some others and some schools are allowing a sack lunch or forgotten lunch for their individual student (not for others). He says a table could be set up for the lunch to be left on so the student can get it. He has not heard any problems with what we posted about no forgotten lunches allowed, but maybe we could be more flexible. Mr. Smiley brought up the issue of forgotten athletic gear that is sometimes brought to the school. Mrs. Brown mentioned possible inconsistency of parents not being allowed inside the building but allowing them in to bring a lunch or forgotten item. The committee discussed only allowing parent to drop it off on a table just inside the door (in the foyer) rather than entering the office. Then the parent would not have contact with anyone, and the student could pick up the item when called. Mrs. McClure said their goal was to keep things as normal as possible and support students and families as much as possible while still limiting contact. She is thinking they could buzz in and leave items on a table in the entryway, not in the office. The item would need to be labeled with a student name. No one seems to have a problem with this plan as long as exposure is limited to the inside of the school and use of doors is minimized.

Meet the Teacher and Transition activities for incoming 6th and 9th graders—Mr. McCutchen has not spoken to his staff yet, but he thinks 6th graders only and possibly new students could come on campus to get more familiar with the building. They are going to mail out schedules and a campus map. Other ideas are a 1:6 or 1:7 small groups of students to do tours of the

campus at scheduled times. He is also considering a drive-by meet the teacher option, although that would not get the familiar with the building.

Mr. Smiley said 6-8 on Wednesday August 12th, STUCO has a plan to give tours to groups of students of 10 or less. Only students will be allowed on the tour; no parents.

Mrs. McClure said for elementary, they are thinking of moving meet the teacher to Friday August 14th. They are thinking of splitting up the day by alphabet. They might limit it to one adult allowed to come in with the student. They could come to the classroom, meet the teacher, and take pictures. Mrs. Duncan said she has heard of several other schools that are doing something similar. She feels like that splitting it by alpha would spread people out more in the building rather than scheduling a grade level at a time.

Masks would be highly encouraged at these events and signs would be put up. These events are optional.

Draft Plan—Kendra sent out prior to the meeting today

Page 15—Hallways, lockers, and transitions—the committee agrees that lockers should NOT be assigned to students. Students will be allowed to carry backpacks. This will allow for more social distancing in the hallways and less congregation of students in close proximity.

Page 16—Off-Campus Student Activities—wording of first bullet? Mr. Clayton reads it as though the entity (school, contest, etc.) would need to provide us with the current safety guidance that they are following so we can adhere to it.

Page 16—Extracurricular Activities—Mr. Clayton is leaning toward students who are learning in a remote environment being allowed to come to school during their extracurricular class periods (band, athletics, etc.) He does not want us to back ourselves into a corner and does not want to do a disservice to students whose circumstances that are beyond their control. Mrs. Bennett noted that it is difficult to define extracurricular activities. Mr. Smiley has spoken to some surrounding schools and several are also allowing this. This may be an opportunity for a remote learning child to still be involved with the school. There are also some CT courses that will be handled this way, and some that TEA says are allowed only in person.

Mrs. Chambers asked about where the students should check in and out for these activities. Very good thought. That is a detail we will work out later.

Mr. Essler said their transportation budget will likely be reduced due to less kids and miles on each bus.

Page 18—Remote Learning—Students will need an appropriate device, and the district can help with that if needed.

Remote Synchronous—live interaction with the teacher/classmates. Bullets are self-explanatory.

Asynchronous—discussed expectations listed in bullet points. Complete assignments and tasks EACH DAY. An average daily minimum number of minutes are required for students to be engaged in online learning.

Schedule for Remote Learning—The parent or student should contact the teacher for additional assistance. They must log in to Schoology and engage in teacher assigned activities. Attendance was discussed. Specify Central Standard Time so there is no question. Students and parents must be educated on these requirements. Possibly specify that the requirements are TEA ordered, not just HISD.

What if the student logs in but did not complete the required amount of time?

Mrs. Bennett will check into the latest guidance on actual minute requirements for asynchronous remote instruction.

Students will be counted absent if they have not logged in by 3:00 pm and their parent will receive a notification. However, if they log in after that time but before 11:59 pm, their attendance can be reconciled for that day.

Teachers will be reminded to take home devices and materials each day so they can be prepared for school closure.

Plan of Action—Mrs. Bennett will make changes that were discussed today. Plan is to post the plan tomorrow morning. A parent survey will be sent out tomorrow morning so they can make their choice of learning pathway. Deadline is August 6th per TEA (2 weeks prior to start of school).

Still no ETA on PPE items that we did not get from TEA. Mr. Clayton has given the ok for the district to go ahead and order some face shield and other supplies for the protection of our staff and students.

Is there a statement on the parent survey that explains the increased rigor of remote instruction? Yes. Mr. Clayton pulled up the Commitment Form and it was discussed. If you choose remote, you are choosing that for the first 6 weeks (6 weeks at a time). There will be an opportunity to change at the next grading period. But what if you have a family who chooses in-person at first, and then they no longer feel safe even with the precautions in place? It sounds like the majority feel like we WOULD allow a student to change to remote from in person prior to the end of the grading period. It was suggested that it be communicated to parents that this survey/commitment form is mandatory, not a voluntary survey. We must have a response for EACH STUDENT.

Add something like this to parent commitment form - Parents will be allowed the opportunity to select and/or change their student's learning pathway 2 weeks prior to the start of each grading period (6 weeks) throughout the school year.

Some scenario questions were asked. We plan to have direct guidance and steps listed for different scenarios so everyone knows what to do by the time school starts.

We cannot presume that just because a student has symptoms, that they have COVID.