



Reopening Committee Meeting #1 Summary

Date: Thur., May 21, 2020

Start Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Mr. Holland, Dr. Yates, Mrs. Meitzler, Ms. Van Matre, Mrs. Balash, Mrs. Grau, Mr. Ribich, Mr. Schwartz, Mrs. McCorkle, Ms. Steffen, Mr. Baker, Mr. Mettler, Mrs. Linderwell, Mrs. Willman

BHMSD has formed a reopening committee made up of the people listed above. The first meeting was held virtually on Thursday, May 28, 2020. Dr. Yates welcomed the committee members and explained the purpose of the committee. The goal of this committee is to obtain feedback from staff to better inform the decision-making process for the district. Each member of the committee is serving as a representative of one or multiple groups such as a teacher but also specific to the elementary, middle, or high school. Dr. Yates reminded committee members to be sure to represent that view on this committee to allow him to be in the best place possible to make decisions for BHMSD.

Dr. Yates shared a brief history of what has taken place since March 19, 2020. BHMSD created a short-term plan for return to work for custodians, office workers, and central office staff as of May 4. Depending upon the position, staff may have worked their regular schedule, a modified schedule, or worked from home. Food service will continue with meal preparation and distribution through June 30. For any summer activity, we are considering requiring all coaches, directors, teachers, sponsors, etc. wanting to re-engage an extra-curricular/co-curricular activity after July 4 to submit a plan that demonstrates how social distancing, cleaning and disinfecting procedures, PPE, etc. designed to keep participants and coaches, directors, teachers, sponsors, etc. safe by reducing potential exposure to COVID. We are also reviewing athletic trip requests (summer) and field trips for (school year). If an immediate response is required, then based on what is known at this moment, the request will be denied. Both Mrs. Meitzler and Dr. Yates have been participating and engaging in conversations with others who are struggling to resolve the same questions. This would include a multitude of webinars with a variety of experts, IDOE information, executive orders from Governor Holcomb, extensive grant writing for CARES Act and FEMA, and participating in fiscal outlook/forecasting meetings at the state, local, and federal level. Additional information has been reviewed from the CDC, the health department, insurance providers, and dialogue with our own professional organizations such as Indiana School Boards Association and Indiana Association of School Business Officials.

Related to fiscal matters, we are delaying staffing decisions, considering flexibility for an employee who is quarantined, isolated, or hospitalized. We are also postponing non-essential capital expenditures and reviewing employee service areas and assignments as we plan for 2020-2021.

In consideration for returning to school, we are planning for and determining what cleaning supplies and PPE needs to be purchased. We are planning for increased frequency of personal hygiene practices as well as considering physical modifications to our buildings to help reduce risks for students and staff.

Committee members were given the opportunity to share their thoughts, looming questions, or things to be considered. Committee members responded with items such as: PPE for staff and students, shared students with other schools, needs of special education students, CDC guidelines, screening, testing, liability, and protocols to be set at BHMSD. The committee discussed food service, high risk teachers, substitute teachers, and transportation. Additionally, the group discussed the need to coordinate efforts with Adams and Wells County schools to assist with students involved in CTE and special education.

Next Committee Meeting will be June 9, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

Resources for the committee to review were shared which include a padlet of resources and information and survey results. The committee will meet on June 9 at 9:00 AM and were asked to think about two questions in preparation for the meeting:

1. What will make you feel safe?
2. What will make your students feel safe?

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