



Colleagues-

Happy Saturday! I hope you are all enjoying the rays of sunshine and the great outdoors. Take time to do what makes you happy, but be safe for the sake of yourself, family, friends and even those whom you have not met yet.

OEA has been part of the stakeholders meeting to address the various options being considered by the district for a "Responsible Return to School." I met with district personnel Friday afternoon at 3 p.m. to review the letter the District emailed to you. I was able to view the PowerPoint that is currently in draft form that will be shared on Monday. No solution is ideal, and this solution may change by August, but the intent is to inform staff and families of what school will look like if COVID-19 continues as is. With a plan such as this comes many questions.

I have received numerous emails expressing a range of concerns from several members on the re-opening of the schools in August. I am seeking answers to these questions, but here is what I know:

All PreK-Age 20 students will be on a 3:2 model or 50% attendance. Students with last names that begin with A-K will be one group and L-Z will be a second group. Group one will attend in-person classes on M/T with the second group attending on TH/F with the groups alternating attending on Wednesdays. Using this model will limit the number of students in a classroom to help achieve social distancing.

- **Transition in the building:** The goal is to limit transitions as much as possible. It will be left up to the building principal whether students will go to "specials" or the specialist will come to the primary classroom for that duration of time.
- **Work Load:** Staff will not be expected to do double the work. As opposed to weekly planning you might prepare a 10-day plan. Five days of instruction plan for in person and five plans for virtual learning such as homework or independent tasks to complete. This will look different at each level. This type of work can count towards grades, but that is still being discussed.
- **Masks:** Staff and students will be asked to wear a mask, the district is providing five masks for each. These will be washable and reusable.
- **Will staff be asked to sanitize their classroom?** Classrooms will be provided hand sanitizer and teachers will be asked to monitor it due to the amount of alcohol in the sanitizer. Cleaning material will be provided in the event you wish to wipe desks often. Classrooms will be disinfected by the night cleaning crew; the district has purchased a machine to assist

in this process. Teachers will be asked to assist – for example if students are sharing materials such as a microscope then you will need to wipe them down or if a student sneezes and the area will need to be wiped down, then have the student use the cleaning material to wipe that down. You will NOT be asked to clean your rooms at the end of the day.

- **Checking for temperatures:** A certain percentage of the students attending school will have their temperatures checked each day. Each building will determine the process for this.
- **What happens with my own children when they don't go to school?** This impacts many staff members. The Family First Coronavirus Response Act provides leave to employees when alternative employment arrangements cannot be provided. The individuals who are affected will need to work with HR to address this issue. The district is aware of this concern and is preparing to address it with those staff members affected. The district hopes that by sharing the plan now, it is providing time to address the issues that come with the re-opening of schools in August.

I know the plan will raise more questions —many of which may be unknown at this time. OEA is constantly advocating for the safety of students and staff on the reopening of school buildings. Education will look different in many classrooms this fall and the reopening will not come without challenges. Over the last 30 hours I have received numerous emails on your concerns on this plan. I have compiled a list of the many questions/concerns to share with the Board at BOE meeting on Monday.

I know this has caused a lot of stress and anxiety for many of our staff, we will ask the questions and expect answers prior to the “Responsible Return to School” takes place in August. The work hasn't stopped and continues each and every day. Please continue to send your concerns to me and I will do my best to ensure they are addressed. During this time, I ask for a little grace and patience as we get answers from the district. Be cautious on what is posted on social media, remain professional.

Be well,

Robert
OEA President
