

Return to School Committee Agenda

July 6, 2020 at 4:00pm

1. Welcome

Mr. Lopez opened the meeting at 4:01pm requesting everyone type in first/last name in chat. Please mute yourself and unmute as needed. Mr. Lopez shared agenda. First meeting was last Monday, June 29th. Agenda has general updates to discuss.

2. General Updates and Info Sharing

a. State, Imperial County Public Health, ICOE

Mrs. Dubbe welcomed everyone back and thanked them for their interest and help. Update: last week we discussed the public health officer and developing trend in a positive way as numbers are lowering closer to 8% needed to reopen schools. Numbers have increased again. This past week has brought a lot of attention from the Governor stopping short of reverting counties backward. Locally our own health officer sent out an amended order requesting people to stay home, not gather, and following guidelines for sending only one person to grocery stores. We're expecting numbers to rise again due to the 4th of July activities in the past week. For schools, even though we're in fluid times, as we get closer to the start of school, it seems we are leaning towards starting with distance learning until we drop down to the 8%. We'll watch the numbers and wait for clarified language and what it means for school districts. What we'd like to do is get a timeline in place to begin developing our distance learning plan and how to move into a hybrid model. The next two weeks will be a good time to watch numbers and begin getting work done around July 20th. This is a good time to hear from the community and the hot spots and unrest along with the big questions you may have.

Lacie asked about the numbers of infection. We are currently at Stage 2 lower risk and the County is watching the metrics in particular areas. Once numbers are beginning to stable, the County health department will notify us of advancement to the next stage.

Andrew mentioned he'd spoken to other colleges and board members from other districts. Other neighboring districts have come out stating they'll be full distance learning. Dubbe replied that yes, some district will go straight to the distance learning model. Some districts have an earlier start date and they have a very complicated mast schedule. It may be based on start date,

complexity of student enrollment and their campus, etc. all guided by the public health stages. If we announce today that we'll be starting in a distance learning model, we have seven weeks for things to change and become stable. If in the next few weeks we are able to move into a hybrid model, this gives us seven weeks to make plans for a hybrid model. We want both the DL and hybrid model in place and how to transition between the two models. We have a board meeting on July 14th and the following meeting in mid-August. We will need a mid-point in which we gather again and make an announcement/commitment. If we get to that point and we're still at 2A, then it will be distance learning.

Angie – It may be early for this question, but if we start with a hybrid model and students/staff are getting sick, what will that do for our students? She feels the best way to service students is them sitting in front of her. Her concern is starting with hybrid and moving back and forth based on infection numbers. Dubbe replied that we will be planning out how to transition back and forth between the two models and get that out to everyone. She feels the health officer will be very thoughtful when moving to a higher stage and when schools will open. Schools will also be thoughtful with cohorting and what happens on campus to the best of our ability. In the next weeks we'll watch how the numbers stabilize. Today's numbers are only good for today and we'll need to be patient as the numbers settle down.

Rimmie – How do McCabe teachers feel about the start of school? Dubbe replied she feels our teaching staff is a little anxious, but confident that we'll succeed. Our survey sub-committee will look into how staff feels about going back to school.

Herbert – Is there a group of parents/teachers who would be ready to send their kids back today? Dubbe replied that the parent community has great confidence in our staff to provide a very safe environment. We are aware of parents having a hardship if they have to be at work and who will fulfill the role as the facilitator in the distance learning model.

Kemp – Where will we need to be to go to hybrid? Dubbe replied that to be traditional, it will be very tied to the health conditions in our community and is everyone doing their part to lower the numbers and is it working as a community.

Cochran – Will trainings for distance learning be available for staff soon? Dubbe replied that the trainings will be agreed upon by August 1st. Some teachers may need more to boost confidence. These will be questions in our survey.

Rimmie and Jessica Coyne would feel comfortable sending their children back to school.

Andrew stated he's been assisting other districts during this time. Dubbe replied we have a lot of great resources to assist teachers.

3. How do you feel? Questions and Concerns

Do you have any specific concerns or want to voice how you feel? In speaking with other parents/committee members, we have information from our County and with this committee and our unions, we will begin to talk about what the start of school is going to look like. We have to be ready for the possibility of starting with DL, but be ready for when we are ready for students to return to school.

4. Physically Returning to School

a. School-Site Walkthroughs

We have a committee to take a look at campus safety, but with the stay-at-home order in place, administration and Mr. Curry has taken on this task on 34 acres and in classrooms, organizing desks to judge student space, we do feel that a 50% model will work for us. Transporting and car lines will be discussed by our transportation committee.

b. Considerations for School

Mr. Lopez will email this committee a recourse document by out by the CDC which talks about what is required before the school site is opened with communications, policies, procedures, etc. Unless the health department shuts us down completely, we are looking at having cohorts to maintain keeping the school open. If we open in DL, then move to a hybrid model, then have to regress to DL, there are a lot of things to consider.

Reed – Once we hopefully return to an on-site school day, there's cleanliness that needs to be done on the fly and do we have the staff to do so. Part of the consideration is the time it will take to disinfect a classroom. Lopez replied that one model is to bring in one half of students, break to disinfect, then bring in the second half in the afternoon. We are in contact with our M&O supervisor to be sure we have sufficient staff for cleaning the facilities.

5. Sub-Committee Roles and Guidance

a. Teachers

i. Update from Union conversations

If you are interested in being part of any sub-committee, please let Mr. Lopez know via email. Meetings will start on July 7th. Anyone can jump into a committee to participate or just listen in. More information to come.

Teacher Committee – We have different working groups with the union and this committee and will talk about how we will support parents in using the DL model from home. Parents seem to really want students in the classroom, yet not always available to assist children during the day. It will look different that it did during the last quarter of the school year. We do need to be ready for both DL and hybrid formats. Having parents and teachers on this committee will be beneficial.

Cochran – Is it ok to be on two committees? You can, even if it's just by listening to the meeting.

Dubbe – There are some questions in the chat about what type of platform we'll be using and concerns about discipline and the policies in place and how it will be addressed.

Lopez – Just as we take the first week of the school year to explain expectations with students, we will also need to include parents in these conversations and the support of the parents for students to participate. It's difficult to control someone on the other side of the screen. Screens must be on at all times. Students will be unmuted at appropriate times. Parents will be the biggest supporter when learning from home. This is just like using technology in the classroom – students must follow specific guidelines.

Kemp – What if students are at a sitter's home who won't be able to support a student during DL or don't have internet access? Lopez replied that we are looking at other ways to handle for both issues. We want the students to be face-to-face with the teacher. We know there may be students on campus for specific instruction. We will need to provide some technology services.

Kemp – If we're in a hybrid model 5 days a week and my child is at the daycare part of the time and at school part of the time, how will he manage a ZOOM meeting from daycare? Lopez – We are looking at other possible ways to offer support. We don't know to what degree students can handle a Chromebook if in 1st grade. There are still conversations to be had regarding technology.

Cochran – On the parent survey, those were fabulous questions. She's like to include some of those questions in the teacher survey. Lopez – As we work through the survey committee, those are questions we'll get out to the parent community. Cochran – Do we need another committee

for the teacher survey? Lopez – We'll include teacher and parents in the survey committee meetings.

Lopez – There are so many moving pieces in starting the school day on campus, having the campus ready, instructional aides, working from home, coming on campus to offer support, will they help the students virtually, cafeteria support and providing meals during DL, technology services, transportation, etc. These are conversations to be had and discuss in the last parent survey. Transportation may need to be provided even with DL for some regions of our district or for food services.

Reed – Does the district still employ a full-time school psychologist? Yes, Mr. Hayasaka. Dubbe – The question has been asked if there will be support for a student should there be a loss of life. ICOE will have a team available for districts to call in for counseling if needed. Reed – Staff working from home are needing more assistance and may be refusing to return to work due to fear.

- ii. California Collaborative for Educational Excellence CCEE
 - 1. Hybrid Learning Playbook and Learning Plan
 - 2. Distance Learning Playbook and Learning Plan
- b. Classified
 - i. Update from Union Conversations
 - ii. M&O - Getting facilities ready
 - iii. Instructional Aide – Supporting instructional program
 - iv. Cafeteria – Supporting families with meals
 - v. Technology – supporting teachers, parents, and students with technology needed
 - vi. Transportation – providing transportation and related services
 - vii. Office – Supporting the public
- c. Review the Plans
 - i. Supporting Resource Document
 - ii. Site-Specific Protection Plan

There is a protection plan looking at illness prevention. Mr. Lopez will email a draft to the committee for upcoming conversations during our meetings. We'll need to look at how we capitalize on using the services available.

- iii. Continuity of Learning Plan
- iv. Injury and Illness Prevention Program Plan (IIPP)
- d. Parent Survey
 - i. Google form – Parent form

How can we help parent who may be essential workers? Will we be expecting teachers to work from home or from the school site?

- e. Communications
 - i. Return to School Committee
 - ii. School Messenger email and dialer

We're reaching out to include parents in our weekly meetings and updates. A dialer and email were sent out last Friday to all parents with notes from the last meeting. Some parents have reached out to see if they can listen in to these committee meetings. This is something we need to consider. Mr. Lopez will reach out to those interested parents to allow them to listen in and share ideas while the committee meeting is in session.

Dubbe – There were some chat conversations about the ZOOM platform. The regulations have been tightened up regarding safety and will look a lot different in July than it did in March. Also, recording lessons are mentioned in the chat as well as delivering instruction online. There is an expectation that there will be face-to-face instruction including peers to simulate classroom instruction as much as possible. Attendance will also be something to consider and will be different than the end of the 2019-2020 school year. More to come on this topic as it comes available. As for campus availability during DL, teachers will have access to their classrooms to prepare or present DL.

6. Next Steps

There are five committee meetings tomorrow, 7/7. Mr. Lopez will include the ZOOM link to each of these meetings. With no further questions, Mr. Lopez thanked the committee for their time. He'll continue to use the email thread for more committee information. Another dialer and email will be sent out this week with notes from today's meeting and sub committees.

Lacie – What will happen to students who have special needs? All students will be supported whether through DL or on site. This will include ELL, Special Education,

Cochran – She attended a workshop regarding assistance to children who need it. She asked that other teachers on this committee share any online workshops that might help teachers prepare for the school year.

Andrew – Mother CUE is offering free session through Microsoft and al a carte. He'll send the link to Cochran through email. Mr. Lopez asked if he could share this with the entire group.

Angie – She knows many staff members are tech savvy, but is willing to assist other teachers if needed.

Dubbe addressed Andrew – the Mothership CUE are also available and was sent out to teachers last week. Andrew asked Mrs. Dubbe if she saw the official announcement a couple of days ago that he'll be presenting at the Fall CUE conference. Mr. Lopez asked if it would all be digital. Andrew stated it will.

Dubbe – One last chat comment, as McCabe parents you're looking at hiring tutoring to assist your children. Mrs. Dubbe appreciates that.

7. Next meeting – Monday July 13, 2020 at 4:00pm
Meeting adjourned at 5:07pm.