

## District Planning Committee Agenda

March 30, 2021

3:00 pm - 4:15 pm [Via Zoom](#)

Passcode: b1!r^s5\*

Minutes ([Video Link](#))

### **Purpose/Goals**

Superintendent Wolfrom starts the meeting by reviewing the goals and the purpose of the District Planning Committee. She reminded the public that questions and comments will be taken from the Committee Members, but if the public has them, please write them in the Q&A section. Community members can also email her directly, and she will address them on the [FAQ](#) found on our website.

The purpose of the District Planning Committee will be to develop and recommend to the Cape Elizabeth School Board a plan or plans to return our students to in-school learning, while honoring the following three goals:

1. Safety of students and staff
2. Student learning: assessment and equity
3. Social and emotional well-being of students and staff

April School Board Business Meeting: April 13, 2021 - the goal is to have a recommendation to bring to the Board by this meeting.

### **Changes since March 16, 2021:**

Social distancing recommendations from the Federal CDC change from 3 ft to 6ft for elementary students, remains 6 ft. for middle school and high school students where transmission is high, and remains 6ft. when eating, and 6 ft. between adults

### **Requested Information: 4:20-mark of the video**

Testing in our schools: Erin Taylor

CESD received a waiver in December in order to facilitate the testing. The district has the BINAXnow testing kits. The purpose of the kits are to test symptomatic students or staff who develop symptoms while at school. It is not used to screen asymptomatic people, although if a confirmed case arises, and a close contact is identified, and there is no sub-coverage, the kits can be used for serial testing, but these decisions are made on a case-by-case scenario. All testing that is done gets reported to the CDC through an online portal. The kits have been used in our schools for both staff and students.

### **Presentations:**

Risks/Benefits of having more students in our schools:

Dr. Smita Sonti (District Physician) and Dr. Jessica Rosenthal (Parent) 6:29-mark of the video.

Key points that were discussed during the presentation ([slide presentation](#)):

- Review epidemiological data on current community prevalence
- Review updated CDC guidelines regarding 3ft vs 6ft spacing
- Review studies regarding school based transmission
- Review vaccination efficacy and local vaccination rates
- Review mental health data

Win Phillips asked whether the schools in the studies were full with their entire population? Dr. Sonti answers at 28:50, she can answer for at least one of the studies. They had various rates: 25%, 50% and 75% full.

Jeff Shedd asked how the fact of our designation oscillating between “high” and “substantial” will affect distancing. Dr. Rosenthal answers this question at 30:40.

Zakia Nelson’s comments can be viewed at 32:04.

Bri Gallagher (39:35) asked for clarification surrounding transient passing.

Sonia Medina (41:33) discussed her concerns regarding the 3ft distancing and the fact that the HS doesn’t have cohorts.

Ingrid Whitaker (42:56) clarified that the ME DOE considers a classroom a close contact. Her concern surrounding the idea of bringing students back after April vacation, and that there tends to be spikes after vacations. This would raise the close contact numbers considerably.

Jill Young ([slide presentation](#))(1:01:07), Karen Jenkins ([slide presentation](#))(45:05), Erin Taylor  
Questions and Answers

### **Updates on plans and progress from Administrative Team: (1:19:10)**

Possible roll-in schedule

Furniture

### **Comments and Questions from Committee Members:**

Kate Zellers (from March 16) (1:21:12)