

Return to School (RtS) Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Attendees: Jessica Berry, Autumn Belajonas, Ruth Thompson, Shasta Minery, Alane Kennedy, Meghan Rice, Sonja Schmanska, Adam Bullard, Rachel Wilcox, Beckie Delaney, Liz Matthews, Ashley Geel, Meghan Elwell, Amy Drinkwater, Randy Elwell, Cassie Kilbride, Tammy Uppham, Elizabeth Giggey

Resources:

[2021-2022 School Plan](#)

[Current SOP](#)

1. Open House:

Adam: We postponed Open House due to feeling like administration and teachers need more time to meet and plan with COVID restrictions in mind. We have had two positive COVID cases and have had no spread from them, which makes me feel confident in having an in person event.

- We will have scheduled time for parents to come in
- Masked & Socially Distanced
- Likely November or December
- Families will come into the school through assigned entrances

Meghan Rice: If we are going to do something in person it might be best to focus on Student Led Conferences.

Beckie: As a parent, I agree that student led conferences should be the priority for an in person event.

Sonja: Cases are rising in Knox, I think it's a little scary to think about opening our doors.

Rachel Wilcox: It would be great if the school could prioritize student led conferences, but keep COVID protocols in mind. The fewer people in the building or a classroom at a time the better. It is likely that authorization for kids ages 5 and up to get the vaccine will be happening early November. The more of the school community and community at large that are vaccinated the safer these events become.

2. Student-Led Conferences (Adam)

Adam: We will put a team together to plan Student Led Conferences and continue to be mindful of the cases in Knox County.

3. Buddy Classrooms -

Adam: Teachers used Buddy Classrooms as a strategy for classroom/behavior management at Tier I prior to COVID. Due to COVID we haven't had classes mixing or houses crossing. We would like to reinstate the use of buddy teachers to provide more support and tools for teachers. Each class would have a designated space for a student to sit if they came in for a break. Some teachers have tools and reflection sheets for the time. Students would stay masked, be 6 feet away and would only stay for 5 - 10 minutes. The break provides a regulation opportunity for the student to then return to class.

Ruth & Sonja: We use this as a strategy and it is very helpful. We would appreciate being able to use it again.

STAFF WILL START USING BUDDY TEACHER BREAKS FOR STUDENTS WITHIN THEIR HOUSES

4. December Craft Fair (Beckie)

Not happening due to lack of planning time and lack of access to a large outside tent.

5. PEPG - Peer Observations

Peer observations allow teachers to observe each other for many benefits. The teachers support starting this back up as it is very helpful. Masking and social distancing will be in place during the observations.

6. [Outbreak Response Plan](#) (Jess & Autumn)

DIDN'T ADDRESS

7. Changes in SOP (Jess & Autumn)

- a. All students from one class would quarantine if exposed (all grade levels)

Jess: In K-3 It's impossible to know who has touched, and per SOP anyone who touches a student who tests positive is a close contact. Also when there are a few students who are not close contacts and can attend school and the rest are out remote it makes it very difficult to deliver instruction to both.

Shasta: According to the SOP if classrooms do not have assigned seats then they are close contacts as well.

Meghan Rice: Students have assigned seats for times when masks are off, some classes have assigned seats throughout the day and some do not.

Autumn: If students are vaccinated do we also quarantine them regardless of their vaccination status?

Liz: Some kids are getting vaccinated, or some parents are getting their children vaccinated so that they will not have to quarantine. There will be no incentive to vaccinate if you quarantine everyone.

- b. **Not waiting until end of day to dismiss students**

Not Addressed

- c. **Siblings home until CC tests neg. ??**

Not Addressed

- d. Remote Learning Plan (**Adam**)

Alane: Can we talk to Camden about their plan? If students who are remote could stream or Zoom with the classroom they will get the live instruction that the other students in the class are getting.

Meghan: Can we come up with a rule that everyone would be quarantined for 1 day in the class so that the teacher has time to set up a Hybrid plan prior to letting students who were not exposed come back into the classroom.

8. [Basketball Proposal](#) (Ashley) - Change in Blue Plan to allow indoor activities

Ashley Geel, AD reviewed proposal for the basketball season to be reviewed by RtS and submitted to the School Board for review. Ashley shared that the MPA's guidelines have not yet been released and usually are not released until last minute. At this time AD's in the area are left with coming up with their own rules and regulations around seasons. I have another AD meeting on November 10th, where I hopefully will find out what other schools are doing. For now I have added TBD to our plan in areas that I am hoping we can adopt based on MPA recommendations.

9. Update on Rapid Testing (Autumn)

- a. Video about rapid testing at home - Rachel?
Did Not Address

10. Update on Lunch Procedures

- a. Trash
 - b. Awning
 - c. Bees
 - d. Extra Picnic Tables
- DID NOT ADDRESS

Determinations/Recommendations:

- 1) We will start using Buddy Teachers within houses as a Tier I PBIS behavior support. Students will be masked at 6ft away from other students at all times.
- 2) Peer Observations will start again as part of the SGEA process.
- 3) We recommend allowing a basketball season with specific restrictions in place. Ashley is waiting on guidance from the MPA to be published.
- 4) The craft fair is on hold due to lack of tents and conflicting schedules
- 5) School board and RtS need to make decisions about:
 - a) Quarantine Expectations (touching)
 - b) Pooled Testing
 - c) Remote Learning Plans/Hybrid Learning
- 6) We need to meet every two weeks due to the amount of topics arising that need to be discussed