

Work Session Meeting of the Board of Directors
Sutherlin School District 130
Sutherlin Middle School Activity Center

Call to order and roll call

Board

JR Guthrie
Jacob Masterfield
Trixy Diamond
Michael Boehm
Justin Peterman

Staff

Terry Prestianni
Wendy Fennell

Guests

Gillian Wesenberg

After establishing a quorum, Board Chair Justin Peterman called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Discussion Item

Governor's Mandates

Superintendent Prestianni presented information on the requirements released on July 29th by the Governor's office detailing just what is required for the district to reopen schools to all students.

To reopen schools to deliver instruction in person and onsite these requirements must be met:

Douglas County may not be in a baseline phase and must meet county metrics for three weeks in a row.

Grades K – 3 all four of these parameters must be met:

- 1) There must be fewer than 30 cases of Covid-19 per 100,000 people over seven days in Douglas County.
- 2) The Covid-19 test positivity rate must be 5% or less over seven days in Douglas County.
- 3) Covid-19 is not spreading actively in the community
- 4) School district is in compliance with sections 1 through 3 of Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance. * Physical distancing must be maintained – 35 sq. ft. per person

Grades 4 – 12 all four of these parameters must be met:

- 1) There must be fewer than 10 cases of Covid-19 per 100,000 people over seven days in Douglas County.
- 2) The Covid-19 test positivity rate must be 5% or less over seven days in Douglas County.
- 3) The Covid-19 test positivity rate must be 5% or less over seven days in the State of Oregon for three weeks in a row.
- 4) School district is in compliance with sections 1 through 3 of Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance. * Physical distancing must be maintained – 35 sq. ft. per person

Phases:

Baseline Stay Home

Stay home as much as possible. Businesses must have employees work from home if possible. Indoor and outdoor social gatherings are capped at 10 people. Civic, cultural, and faith-based gatherings are capped at 25. Grocery stores, retail, pharmacies, banks and credit unions, and gas stations are all open. Restaurants are take-out/delivery only. Must close: gyms, playgrounds, malls, pools, entertainment facilities, youth sports, spas, sports courts, and personal care services like salons/barbers.

Phase 1

Includes limited reopening of personal services like salons and barbers, gyms, and malls, and restaurants and bars open for in-person service until 10pm. Indoor social get-togethers are capped at 10 people with physical distancing. Cultural, civic, and faith gatherings are capped at 25 people with physical distancing for indoors or outdoors.

Phase 2

After 21 days in Phase 1, counties that meet specific prerequisites may be able to enter Phase 2. Wider reopening includes recreational sports, venues like movie theaters, bowling alleys, and arcades, pools, and increased in-office work. Indoor social get-togethers are capped at 10 people with physical distancing.

Phase 3

Mass gatherings such as major concerts or sporting events with live audiences will require a reliable COVID-19 treatment or vaccine.

The superintendent, along with superintendents from Oakland, South Umpqua and Winston-Dillard held a meeting with Douglas County Healthy Authority Dr. Bob Danneffer last evening for further clarification in regard to meeting those requirements and what districts could or could not do.

It has been the intention of Sutherlin as well as the other three districts mentioned to get every student back in school as soon as possible. However, with information from the state and Dr. Danneffer there are currently no schools in Oregon who can meet the requirements for students grades 4 through 12 to return to a regular school setting with school being held in the buildings. Dr. Danneffer noted currently if school started this week, K-3 students could attend, he was optimistic that students K-3 would be able to attend school physically when the school year begins.

The state has given guidance to districts to select from three instructional models:

On-site – In-person learning takes place as per a typical school year; currently dependent on COVID-19 status in Oregon and mandates by Governor, Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Department of Education.

Hybrid – A combination of onsite and online learning, with classmates and teachers in the student’s regular school while social and physical distancing is limited; students will have online learning for at least half of their school days, attending school on-site in alternating cohorts to meet physical distancing requirements. The hybrid model must also include plans for sections of comprehensive distance learning.

Comprehensive Distance Learning - Students participate in online learning at home in a rigorous comprehensive instructional program taught online through the **Sutherlin School District**, which offers

individual supports and online courses facilitated by Sutherlin teachers, with opportunities for individualized instruction for some courses onsite (i.e. at the high school: Career Technical Education (CTE), Ag, Music). Students will remain enrolled in their current school and may continue to engage in some extracurricular activities on a limited basis.

The District realizes with the physical and social distancing requirements the Onsite model could not be used, and over the summer has diligently been making plans for a Hybrid model. With the release of the health metrics which must be met, it now forces the district to once again change plans and go to the Comprehensive Distance Learning module for at least grades 4 through 12.

Comprehensive distance learning for Sutherlin will be through Edgenuity grades 6-12 and Odyessyware platforms for grades 3-5. Content has been matched to what is being taught in the classroom grades 9-12. Middle school is being cross – referenced with what is taught in the classroom. Instruction will be much more rigorous than what was done last spring. Students will have access to counselors and specialists. Students at grades 4-5 can work at their own pace, lessons can be differentiated to meet the students needs. K-3 students will be onsite and K-2 students will be taught how to use Pathblazers and Spark, while grade 3 students will learn to use Odyessyware in the event distant learning will be needed.

The superintendent is recommending grades 4-12 use the comprehensive distance learning through the first nine weeks November 5th, regardless if the district would be able to meet the requirements to return to school. By doing this it allows for continued planning and assessment to take place while students are still being instructed, in addition to stability for students, parents and staff. In addition if the K-3 students would have to go to the comprehensive distant learning module, it would stay in that module until a natural transition point was reached. The programs would not switch back and forth between models.

Boards members expressed frustration and disappointment in not being able to return students back to school in a traditional manner, understanding this would not only impact students learning, but also the social, health and safety needs of students, as well as an inconvenience or hardship to many families.

A discussion ensued with questions and answers:

Question: Would staff be brought back to the building or work from home?

Answer: It is the intention staff will return and work from the buildings, unless there is a medical condition which requires them to work from offsite.

Question: What period makes up the seven-day period?

Answer: It is thought the seven-day period set by the state is Thursday to Wednesday; however the OHA report is shown for the month and each week begins with a Sunday.

Question: What would happen if the district went ahead and opened school, bringing all students back?

Answer: The district would be at liability for a legal suit and would be in non-compliance.

Question: If activities for students, such as FFA could be continued?

Answer: There are exceptions, in which the CTE courses could possibly qualify, superintendents are expecting further guidance on this.

Question: Why a difference in the metrics for the number of cases between grades K-3 and 4-12?

Answer: We are told kids in grades K-3 are at lower risk of spreading the virus than older children or adults, get the virus at lower rates, and get less sick when they do get the virus.

Question: How many students are needed back in school to make it worthwhile?

Answer: Superintendent Prestianni replied one. All of our kids need to be back in school, in one form or another. Our younger students need the in-person instruction to build writing and reading skills. Board member Boehm commented the superintendent is saying there are students who need to be in school, no matter what.

Question: Will students K-3 would be required to wear masks at school?

Answer: Yes, the requirement is staff and students must wear a face covering.

A concern was expressed that students would have to wear a mask and not be able to go out to recess. The superintendent responded while students have to wear a mask, they will still have a recess time, it will look different than what it has been in the past, and will most likely be more structured, but they will still have a recess.

Discussion took place regarding the expectation of teaching students who will want to continue the distance learning, when all students are allowed to return back to the physical school sites. Teachers will be expected to continue to teach students in the distance learning and in the classroom. Staff will still be able to use the CDL platform, which would allow the teacher to continue work with students off campus.

Question: How will instructional assistants (IA's) be utilized?

Answer: Teachers will design the instruction and IA's will help students receive the instruction; there may be re-assignment of IA's to assist with the different building needs.

Question: Will food service still be provided?

Answer: Yes, the district is required to provide meal service to eligible students whether they are in the buildings or offsite. Most likely food service will be similar as to what was done last spring.

Superintendent Prestianni shared that he had received a memorandum from the Oregon Coaches Association encouraging districts to keep coaches employed and engage students in some means.

Tomorrow there is an opportunity for school board members only to have a conversation with Dr. Danneffer via a virtual meeting; board members expressed interest in attending.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:19pm

Justin Peterman, Board Chair

Wendy Fennell, Executive Assistant