

## Meeting Minutes October 15th meeting

Attendees: Claire, Toby, Mark, Henry, May, Janna, Leslie, Melinda, Rajeev, Beth, Joe, Jayla, Isaac, Lisa, Meaghan, Emily

### Goals for the meeting

1. Shared understanding of our charge
2. Understand the process of how we fulfill our charge
3. Begin brainstorming survey topics
4. Communications overview

### Agenda for today

Icebreaker - if you could have a superpower, what would it be?

Shared understanding of our charge

## High School In-person Task Force Charge

**Charge:** Recommendation for phasing in high school in-person learning to be presented to the School Committee by the end of November

### Background

- DESE required all school districts to develop three models: full in-person, hybrid, remote
- Given clear obstacles to full in-person (e.g. space constraints), hybrid and remote models were put forth for consideration
- Phased-in hybrid was implemented in Elementary and Middle School
- Remote model was implemented in High School
  - Hybrid model was first agreed to but faced key obstacles to implementation, including staffing, space, equity
  - Remote model was adopted given academic strengths of this model, ability to address key obstacles
- School Committee asked for recommendation to phase-in “in-person learning”
- Task Force charged to make this recommendation

### Task Force Mindset

- Then vs. Now: While the initial DESE charge was to develop three distinct models, we are creating this recommendation from a very different vantage point than the summer:
  - We have implemented a distance learning model and need to understand how it is working and how to transition from what we are doing to more in-person learning
  - We see a distinction between Hybrid and In-person. While DESE charge was to develop a Hybrid model, our charge is to fully consider the range of options for getting students back into school, including but not limited to Hybrid Models
  - We will consider both Hybrid models and alternative models that promote increased in-person student learning.

- A curiosity mindset. We need to:
  - To be open-minded in exploring Newton's distance and hybrid models as well as what's happening in other communities
  - Clarify our Values and Priorities—what's important to each stakeholder group (students, parents, educators), what are our goals and priorities
  - Identify what's working well in Newton High schools, and what is not
  - Find out what is working elsewhere that might be part of our in-person plan
  - Update and consider obstacles to in-person/hybrid
  
- What one thing resonates for you? - 20 seconds, keeping time.
- What's one thing that concerns you/question: put it in chat
- Toby with Henry/Mark to address challenges/concerns
- Shared understanding/are we OK moving on

#### Roadmap/Timeline

- Education and Identification
  - Current Newton situation (where we are, how we got here, what we've thought of/tried)
  - Identify values and priorities
  - Identify challenges/barriers to implementation
- Assessment (outreach to stakeholders via surveys)
  - Clarify key stakeholders
  - Create overlapping questions - values, current model feedback, I wish I had \_\_\_\_\_
  - Create stakeholder-specific questions
  - Analyze stakeholder feedback
- Data Gathering
  - Create information matrix of other district in-person models
  - Include Newton models, comparable MA and out-of-state districts
  - Reach out to get direct feedback on what is and isn't working for existing in-person models
  - Reach out to other districts to identify if/how they overcame their logistical challenges
- Synthesis
  - Merge data gathered from Newton and other districts, along with Newton stakeholder priorities/values to create updated matrix
  - Update list of logistical challenges to include feedback from other districts
  - Problem solve obstacles and identify parts of models which may have challenges that cannot be overcome
  - Create draft option(s) based on merged data
- Presentation of Option(s) and Refinement
  - Present option(s) to School Committee for feedback
  - Refine option(s)

- Present final option(s) for School Committee vote

#### Survey Topics

- Assign Groups (Student, Teacher, Parent)
- Develop Beginning Topics
- Report Back

Communications Plan - Report to SC

Homework: Brainstorm questions for your specific stakeholder group