

High School Working Group Meeting minutes for 10-21-20

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

Ice breaker

Agenda review

Setting the Context:

The Working Group is starting its second week and we recognize there is a lot of work ahead. We want to reiterate the framework from last week--we need to find out what's important to our community, our priorities and our values, etc. We also need to acknowledge the time sensitivity or our work: we don't have unlimited amounts of time. The concept of a calm sense of urgency. We want to move ahead as quickly as we can with a multipronged approach, simultaneously understanding values/priorities/what is and is not going well today; identifying/solving for obstacles; and learning about best practices/ what others' are doing.

Surveys:

Based on stakeholder sub-group input from last week (students, families, teachers), a first draft survey was developed which included 11 core questions for all stakeholders. Following a full group discussion of the core questions, we met in stakeholder subgroups to further review the core questions and add up to five stakeholder specific questions. Students felt that more in-person conversations could be helpful. We agreed to add student focus groups.

General comments on the survey:

Liked the questions, but clarify some of the questions

Good base questions - how effective they will be for addressing mental health and safety

Why do students want to come back. Parents - how the kids will get to school - focus groups might help with that

We don't want to do all this work, and then have kids pivot back to remote

Change Challenging to rigorous in #1? In-person contact with peers, or in-person with friends

Question 11 - Are we considering a model that changes the current groups? Some teachers, students and families may be fearful we are going to disrupt our current groups. How important is continuity?

Direct questions about would you feel comfortable sending your child to school.

Do we want to be direct and get that understanding right now? Assuming public health allows for and then for students, would you be comfortable going to school

Do we want to get a sense of if there are folks who are feeling unsafe? For as long as covid is present, how comfortable are you about sending your child back to school.

Question 10 - why difference of electives and core

Open response ideas:

What are some creative ways you hope we could do in-person learning?

What would it take for you to feel safe to return to the building?

Communications - we will send out a communication to the parent community every Friday with a weekly update from the working group. The PTSO representatives will reinforce those messages in their Sunday emails home, focusing on items of particular importance to parents, as well as what might be different for the two communities. We also talked about updating the website, to make sure the data is easily accessible. We discussed whether we should include links to outside information/resources, e.g. health data.

Planning team will finalize language of the survey, integrating the feedback and suggestions from the subgroups.