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

Agenda

Icebreaker
Updates
- Student Focus Groups
- Survey Update
- Communications Update--High School Working Group shared folder (under shared with me) Fall 2020; Correspondence sub-folder; Meeting minutes included

Obstacles Presentation/Discussion
- Presentation
- Discussion-Shared understanding of challenges through dialogue
- Breakouts-How does this discussion inform our thinking about questions to ask other districts?

Matrix Review
- Update/Review
- Criteria for picking deep dive districts

Tomorrow:
- Select districts/plan research
- Review Calendar/schedule
  1. October 28/29--Obstacles and Matrix Review
  2. November 2--School Committee Meeting
  3. November 4&5--Survey Results, Matrix Deep Dive, Beginning Options
  4. November 6-16 (including week 11/9 minus Veterans Day 11/11)
  5. November 16--Present Draft Options to SC for Feedback
  6. November 16-30--Refine Options (Pressure test with parents/teachers)
  7. December 2--Recommendation to SC
  8. Dec 16 (or sooner)--Vote

Focus Group discussion - results of the focus groups will be presented together when all of the focus groups are completed. Topics for further exploration Friday (second round of focus groups):
Do students like the later HS start time
How are they managing the HW load?
On balance, do students want to return to school?
Did they have an opinion on keeping the schedule vs. changing things if we start new?
Concerns just for this year, or concerns they feel most years.

Survey Update - as of Wednesday morning at 9:30, 1226 north student surveys returned, 307 north staff, 1664 family surveys returned. South students will take the survey on Friday. South staff survey is still open. We're going to get a lot of surveys, which is great. Katy will have a presentation of multiple choice survey info for the November 4th meeting.

Obstacles presentation/discussion

All three reasons why we didn't implement the hybrid plan in the summer are valid and critical challenges. These challenges (staff, space equity) need to be addressed in our recommendation.

Discussion:

Aren't there additional obstacles?
While there are many challenges to hybrid implementation, the three key obstacles were most difficult to surmount. Other obstacles such as cleaning the building were raised. The district thinks they can address cleaning, but it will be challenging.   Public health concerns are also legitimate, and teacher/staff/student health is an ongoing concern, no matter what. Again, following established health guidelines, while challenging, was deemed doable.
Academic tradeoffs - remote model is less disruptive to teaching and learning - no quarantining of classrooms in our current model. We need to keep that in the mind when creating a hybrid model.

We're not starting from zero - the current model has teachers/students assigned already. If we are looking at options, are we assuming this group is looking for a way to transition from the current model to any kind of in-person learning? The group overwhelming agreed continuity is a critical factor when making an in-person recommendation. We cannot re-do an entire master schedule. It would be too disruptive. Next year would be the time to think about starting from scratch. However, it was noted that it is possible, and a potential option, to keep the same classes/groupings, but change the schedule.

What about the use of cameras for distance learning - an embedded model like the middle schools? If we use cameras, we solve the distance only issue. That potentially leaves staffing and space.

The sentiment was expressed that anything we select or recommend should be better than what is currently happening. Some feel the current model is working well and question why are we asking for in-person learning? However, what does 'better' mean? We shouldn't feel boxed into one recommendation to replace what we are doing. We can present multiple options.

Where are the points at which we could transition to what a potential model might look like? End of a quarter. Two milestones - end of Q2 or Q3. We shouldn't switch in the middle of a quarter.

Chat questions we might want to ask other districts regarding potential obstacles/challenges:

See survey or evaluation data from their distance students (other districts)
Do other distracts have free blocks for students? How do they ensure social distancing?
How do other districts find space to hold kids who are in the building with remote teachers?
If they had shut down hybrid due to covid, how do they transition to an online curriculum immediately?
How are other districts handling social distancing, especially bathrooms as they're a place students like to congregate?
How are other districts transitioning back and forth from hybrid to distance learning if they've had to? What did they do to make it successful?
Pressure test some of the initial teacher/student experience in the synchronous in person/home model, against the obstacles and assumptions we made over the summer
Which model will be most manageable to teachers? How many are swamped?