

July 17, 2020

Dear Students, Parents, and Staff Members,

Wednesday night's school board meeting focused on school reopening planning and discussion. We utilized a 38-slide presentation to work through the following three main areas:

- a. *Recommendations from Community Partners at Public Health and DCMC*
- b. *District-level Planning Updates*
- c. *School-level Planning Updates*

One of the guiding statements we considered was the following: We not only want schools to reopen this fall, but we want schools to be able to stay open as much as possible. Dr. Fogarty (and a letter from Public Health Officer Sue Powers) addressed the masking topic, and our medical community feels people young and old should wear a face covering especially in certain situations.

No matter how much some people might agree or disagree with wearing masks, I believe we all want our schools, businesses, and community to return to normal as soon as possible. Although many of you know me as a positive person, it's OK to admit that the past four months have been quite rough—and there are more challenges ahead of us. So if the same local, medical experts who we rely on to assist us with a variety of health issues are telling us that the best way to try to get back to normal is to wear a mask especially when we cannot physically distance from others, then we should follow their advice. While making schools into the “mask police” does not appear to be the best use of staff time, if wearing a facial covering allows me to continue to report to work and my daughter to attend school then we are both willing to do it. I fear a “consequence” for not doing so will involve far more school closure days than any of us would want, with the potential for other consequences as well.

Yesterday morning, the Public Health department, DCMC staff who support schools, and Door County school district reps had our most recent meeting. Our health partners will continue to develop materials and flow charts for the families and staff members of the county districts so we can all get the information we need and so we can have the best possible answers to those big questions we have.

Each school principal will be communicating with their families next week regarding school-specific plans as they are currently known. The summer registration packet is being processed and should be out to families the following week.

On behalf of the entire district and our school board, I thank you yet again for your cooperation, support, and patience when it comes to the incredibly important task of reopening our schools.

With Clipper Pride,

Dan Tjernagel, Superintendent

*Please see following page for additional meeting highlights.*

July 17, 2020 Student, Parent, and Staff Letter Addendum -- Select School Board Meeting Highlights

- The full presentation can be accessed by using the Registration Information Quick Link in the red box on the left side of the school district home page found at <http://www.sturbay.k12.wi.us>. Principals plan to send school-level information to families next week.
- Screening Prior To Arriving at School: Staff, students/parents will be asked to self-screen and/or screen their children for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to coming to school.
  - Various documents with symptoms to watch for are being drafted for us.
  - A COVID-19 hotline number (920-746-3700) is available to ask local medical professionals any COVID-19 related questions. After 4:30 P.M., you can contact Prevea After Hours at 1-877-746-0003.
- Support Once At School: The school nurse team will assist with isolation of students and/or staff who may present as ill during the day.
  - Flow charts are being developed by our health partners at DCMC and Public Health and so those can be shared with families and school staff.
  - DCMC and Public Health have established protocols related to testing, if needed and with parent consent for students of course, and contact tracing and subsequent testing of those considered in close contact.
- Masks/Facial Coverings: Cloth face coverings will be promoted and recommended, especially when distancing is not an option (entrances/exits, passing time, common areas, etc.).
  - While we recognize this is a challenging topic for many people, our medical advisor indicates masking is one of several ways to mitigate risk of spread of infection and expects the people she both works with and serves to mask.
  - In particular, this is one of many things the district can promote to help protect our staff and substitutes so that they not only feel comfortable teaching, but can remain healthy and present in the classrooms. Failure to have enough staff members on hand would cause a school building to close.
  - Thank you for helping your student(s) understand that we need and expect everyone's help in keeping both students and staff protected so that school can remain open throughout the school year. Also know that there will be other dividers and types of protective equipment to help keep students and staff safe.
- Room Capacities/group sizes: Class sizes will be as small as possible in order to promote distancing. Schools will creatively adjust passing/dismissal schedules, work in cohorts as feasible, and utilize plastic dividers as appropriate.
  - Virtual attendance will also available in a variety of situations.
- Facilities: Ventilation will be aided by our HVAC system which also cleans the air. Hand Sanitizer will be available. Cleaning/sanitizing schedules are being adjusted (*see presentation*).
- Transportation: The district will continue to provide transportation through our contracted partner, Kobussen. Just as the process occurs each summer through the registration process, bus routes are developed and adjusted accordingly. We welcome having more parents transport their student(s) to school to assist with the situation. Individuals planning to ride the bus should also plan to wear a mask/facial covering on the bus.