

**REPORT OF THE BOARD'S DELEGATE TO THE
TITLE I DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DAC)**

May 27, 2021

Submitted by Submitted by Director Leonard

**Meeting of the District Advisory Council
Thursday, April 1, 2021 6:00 p.m.
Virtual**

I. WELCOME

Tracey Dent - Mr. Dent welcomed all participants and asked the interpreter to say a few words and gave instructions for those using the services of the interpreter. Tracey welcomed the board members and asked that they put their names and position in the chat. He then introduced Celeste Moore to complete the Consent Agenda and Positive Notes.

II. CONSENT AGENDA/EXPECTATIONS - CELESTE MOORE

Celeste touched on the family and community engagement reports and the five priorities of success which can be found on the MPS website. The MPS central office will remain closed. Information about in-person learning and students return to school, which started in April, is also found on the website. A parent survey was required if parents wanted their children to return to in-person learning. Family Engagement Sessions regarding in-person learning will be held virtually on April 14th for students in 4-8 grades and on April 21st for high school students and parents from 5:30-7:00 pm. The website also includes information about Spring Athletics, Special Education Leadership and Summer Academy. Parents are also encouraged to subscribe to the Family Friday Newsletter with their emails. There are still positions open on the DAC Executive Committee. If you really want your voice heard this is the place to be. Please consider being a member.

- a. Family and Community Engagement Report. This report was part of the Consent Agenda sent to all members of DAC.
- b. Review February Minutes There were no additions or corrections
- c. Attendance 150

III. POSITIVE NOTES - CELESTE MOORE

Amanda Klett, Neeskara has a "sip and chat with teachers, principal, parent coordinator and parents. Parents can ask questions and talk to the principal. Parents also talk with each other and offer support. This week we discussed the re-opening plan. All parents during this week's chat praised our wonderful teachers!

Winnifred Aitch, Holmes Elementary: I wanted to share a few great things that are happening at Holmes.1) Teachers are excited to prepare great activities for students to continue learning both virtually and in person. 2) We are awaiting the award of a new high tech stem lab via Verizon. 3) We are actively recruiting students for the 2021-22 school year. 4) We gave 100 boxes of food to families and the community through our partnership with BASICS via Farms to Families

Veronica Noland, I am a parent representing South Division HS, I having been receiving such positive support from the Parent coordinator Mrs. Burrero and such encouragement. Families also received food boxes by pick up or delivery. So amazing.

Kelly Paek, Clement Avenue hosted 3 Family Forum meets in regards to reopening and they were really well attended.

Douglas has 333 enrolled students as of today. They have 299 re-opening surveys completed.

IV. PRESENTATION(S) –

Dr. Keith Posley, Superintendent MPS

Welcomed everyone and thanked them for being strong during such a difficult school year. He expressed his gratitude for all the parents who provided feedback and returned the surveys regarding the reopening. He acknowledged that this is an important choice for our families and students and recognize that there is no way to please everyone. It is the district's desire to open safely for in-person learning for families and students who desire that choice. We want to do this together and we are confident that we can succeed. He introduced the presenters and their topics:

Academic Expectations – Dr. Carletta Noland

Dr. Nolan presented a roadmap to readiness which included the recommendation that was presented to the board of directors. This recommendation states that on April 14, 2021, K-3 through grade three will return to in-person learning. Grades four through eight will be returning April 19th, and there are still virtual options available to families who wish to remain virtual. Grades nine through 12 students who are at risk will be returning on April 26, but those not at risk will remain virtual. There will be a four day in person learning model with Wednesday being virtual.

Teachers will be provided resources to meet the needs of students returning to in person learning. To address some of the gaps teachers will work with students on an individual basis, establish cooperative groups where students can learn and work collaboratively with their peers and during asynchronous times.

Teachers should be providing office hours to further support learning in this very nontraditional model and offer office hours to students and families in need of additional support.

Health and Safety – Maurice Turner

All schools will continue to use signage and for our markings to encourage and support fiscal distancing, with particular attention to common areas and classrooms. Schools will establish procedures for entry exit and bus loading and unloading that support physical distancing of six feet, to the greatest extent possible.

Should students or staff in the building show symptoms of Covid19, a nurse will conduct an assessment of the symptoms and determine if that individual should be excluded from school. If the student can be picked up immediately (within 15 minutes), the student will remain in the office of the nurse. If there will be more than 15 minute wait, the student would be taken to the isolation room. Cleaning procedures are in place for the building leaders to facilitate the use of the isolation room for any staff or students determined by our school nurses to be symptomatic. Lunch and reset scheduling will be developed at each school. Finally, there will be a no visitor policy for MPs buildings.

Nurses will be available for consultation related to staff as needed. We will continue to support social distancing in common areas. Plexiglas will be used in classrooms, offices, and other areas where applicable.

School Operations – Sean Kane

Ventilation has become a priority as we plan for reopening. MPS is following guidance from the CDC, which uses standards developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers. HVAC units are running two hours before and two hours after building is occupied. HVAC units have been set to supply the maximum outside of air a unit can safely provide. Air filters have been updated to the maximum so they will not overburden the ventilation system. Portable filtration units or air purifiers have been added to isolation rooms, classrooms, and multiple occupancy spaces such as cafeterias, gyms, libraries, in the main office at all school sites.

Cleaning staff have been provided to support the cleaning of high touch surfaces, such as main counters, door knobs, light switches, etc., throughout the school day. In addition, with the reopening of schools, additional 32 staff persons will be brought in to complete the thorough cleaning of buildings in classrooms on Wednesdays. With any report of symptomatic or COVID19 positive cases, the facilities and

maintenance service department has a rapid response team to use electrostatic sprayers on the areas identified.

To support physical distancing school bus capacities will be managed for adherence to the current guidelines and with respect to keeping family members together and separating students outside of family groups, as such, all students will be assigned to their seats on the bus. Masks will be required of all bus riders and drivers.

The CDC has specific guidance for meal service, which will be followed by school nutrition staff. Breakfast in the classroom will continue for students in the schools that have the program. There will be a grab and go breakfast available for students in schools that don't have the BIC program. Schools have the option of lunch in the classroom or in the cafeteria based on their capacities in order to support social distancing students who opt for virtual learning may pre order meals for pickup. With the reopening of schools, we will offer before and after school activities for families that need those services. Recreation agencies will collaborate with schools to establish transition procedures following those health and safety guidelines mentioned previously. The recreation office will be looking at increasing staff to support these programs.

Students will be monitored in the halls to maintain social and physical distancing. Elementary students will remain in the same class rooms for instruction. During recess students will be encouraged to have recess. Recess will be staggered for safety purposes. There will be specific guidelines that will be provided. Milwaukee Public Schools will have spring sports. Safety guidelines have been developed and will continue to be shared with athletic directors and coaches.

Strategic Partnerships and Customer Service - Christy Stone

Questions were not taken from the chat and, instead, were taking questions that were submitted. We will make sure that we have resources available to address those questions that you did have from last night's parent information session.

1. *Our first question is, will transportation be available for my child?*

Yes

2. *Our next question is if a student could not continue in person, will they be allowed to continue, virtually and will they have to show any medical certification?*

If a student is unable to continue in person, they will have that virtual option, there will not be a need to show any medical certification.

3. *Will we have normal school hours or virtual school hours?*

School hours will follow the normal bell schedule of that is set forth in the district so school, starting in time will be communicated to parents and families.

4. *How will quarantine work if there's a positive case in a classroom or several in the school?*

If there's one case in a classroom, that will result in the entire classroom, including the teacher quarantining and going virtual for the next 14 days. If there are three cases in a school, that will result in the entire school going virtual for the next 14 days.

5. *Are students allowed to bring cold lunches to school?*

Yes.

6. *Are students permitted to return to school if their parents have not submitted the survey?*

School communities will support parents' decisions. Provided space is available, students may return to class.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM, SPRING SPORTS –LYNN GREB, DIR. OF RECREATION

We have been operating the After School Program, safely, since July. Right now, we have about 50 schools that are providing virtual support and/or after school support throughout the school year. The best way to find information on whether your school is going to be offering after school services once school in person learning resumes is to visit the recreation website at milwaukeeerecreation.net. We're regularly updating it as additional schools come on board. I know a number of schools are still working through some of the staffing challenges from having their camp staff who may not have been working during the school year. So they are in the process of re-hiring staff and getting the adequate staffing needed to provide the after school programming. Please visit the website for the latest schedule, it shows most sites are going to be providing the all day Wednesday care. We are happy to announce that our spring interscholastic athletics will resume. If you do have high school students that are interested in participating, they really need to get registered in the school system. There is a new platform to sign up for interscholastic athletics which should be completed by April 12. We are working to provide transportation to not only competitions, but also to practice for students. We want to remove any barriers for individual students that are still remote learning. We want to provide opportunities for those high school students, especially in grades nine through 11, to get to practice and competitions. Again, it is very important those students get registered as soon as possible, and we look forward to, hopefully, seeing them on the playing field this spring, thank you.

NUTRITION SERVICES – OMAR ABDULLAH, DIR. OF NUTRITION SERVICES

Throughout this pandemic the Department of nutrition services has been providing meals to our students and families. We have continuously looked at ways we can serve meals in different ways to our students and families. They are going to have breakfast and lunch served at the schools. There are approximately 90 schools who participate in a program called breakfast in the classroom during the normal school times so those schools will continue to have their breakfast in the classroom. For remaining schools, we are working to have a grab and go option for the students and the school principals will determine where they will eat breakfast, whether in the classroom or cafeteria. We are going to follow the CDC guidelines and City of Milwaukee health department requirements. We are allowed to use cafeterias and other common areas while maintaining physical distancing. Our kitchen staff is going to clean and wipe the kitchen furniture, tables, and benches between the lunch periods. And for those students who remain virtual, as well as on Wednesday for all students, we have put together a pre ordering system. This system is available on our MPS website where we currently have information for the stop grab and go sites. We are also going to have this pre ordering information on the MPS APP.

V. NEW BUSINESS – DARRYL HALL

There are no subcommittees this evening. Feel free to reach out and contact your subcommittee leader if you have questions, concerns or for details of the next meeting. Before we adjourn our meeting, I just want to thank Dr. Posley and his team. We certainly appreciate you joining us this evening and thank you to all our presenters for taking the opportunity to share some great information with us. I want to say, also to our families, thank you for joining us and for your great questions. We need your support and, most importantly, we need you to provide your feedback in order for us to be successful. We want to make sure that you get what you need and that your children, get what they need, as well. Today is the last day to fill out the survey for reopening. We encourage everyone to visit the various MPS links to keep informed about school schedules, board meetings, family engagement sessions, and much more.

For information about the before and after school programming: Lynn Greb
<https://milwaukeeerecreation.net/rec/Programs/Before-After-School-Care.htm>.

On March 23, 2021, the Board took action relative to the Roadmap to Readiness (return to school) Plan. As part of its action, the Board determined that Board members would submit their top ten questions to the Office of Board Governance by Thursday March 25, 2021, for a response by the Administration by March 30, 2021. The questions provided by Board members are attached. Also included are questions submitted by teachers received by Board members.

This is the link to that information: <https://mymps.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Questions-by-Board-Members-andTeachers-Via-Board-Members-March-30-2021.pdf>.

VI. QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS FROM MEMBERS:

1. Can we be clear that “some” children will be returning in-person?
2. What is being used to measure that students are not meeting expectations?
3. This hyper focus on in-person is not telling me how my child who is staying home and continuing to learn virtually will be served. This is important considering approximately half of students in my school community will likely be at home.
4. There are a lot of mixed messages between what has been shared before and what I am hearing now": no manipulatives/manipulatives....no moving around/getting up to work on Smart Board, backpacks/no backpacks.. Is this another area where individual schools are "working collaboratively," to make these decisions and the district is not putting forth clear directives?
5. Is mandatory covid testing ethical? I was told children and staff have no choice while in-person. This is a huge concern for many of my families. Through tracking the check-in and check-out system. Being aware and reflective of what is going on in the classroom and how these programs are affecting behaviors.
6. What happens to students whose parent only has the use of County bus for transportation?
7. My principal specifically said we will NOT have our after school program ready in time for the first day of school. This is a problem for our families and staff.
8. What does "encouraged," to have recess mean? Offered? Not guaranteed? Thanks for the clarification!
9. Will students choosing to stay home and learn virtually have access to school sports?
10. Please explain what types of testing will be used for the 10% of students tested? Are we seriously considering nasal swabs for a 6 year old, for example?

11. 9th grade students with great grades who really want to come back are being excluded. Is there a way for those students to get a seat that an eligible student does not want?
12. We aren't taking questions from the chat? I'm incredibly frustrated by this.
13. I have a question BASED UPON tonight's presentation. I just listened to a presentation 100% about in-person, NOTHING about how children who continue to stay home will be supported with all of these changes.
14. Why is the board making such a drastic decision from phase 1 to 3 and over passing the hybrid phase?
15. In the spirit of being flexible and using our collective common sense, perhaps we can bypass those questions answered already in this evening's presentation (e.g. how many cases warrant quarantine), allowing for more pressing issues/questions to be addressed?
16. Does the staff get paid if the school closes due to covid? Or if the staff has to stay home due to their childcare closing due to covid?
17. Will siblings continue to ride the school bus with their siblings like before? Parents need to know before school starts.
18. Who makes that determination after our half day nurse leaves for her other school?
19. I mean this with the utmost respect. My school has already had meetings about returning to school where these questions were already answered. I was hoping to get answers on questions my principal could not answer. I am disappointed.
20. Can you please explain the technology that will allow a teacher to teach in person, virtually, and to the overflow classroom?
21. If there is a positive case and the classroom goes virtual, what about that child's school bus? Does that bus get discontinued and those kids go into quarantine as well?
22. As you can see, parents still have questions that would guide the choice they'd make to send their students back. And yet, the survey was due today. So how can anyone make an informed choice on this timeline?
23. What happens to students who refuse to wear masks?
24. When will the DAC delegate questions be answered?
25. If someone has 4 children in different schools and one of them gets positive to Covid 19, do all of them need to stay at home for 14 days or only the child that tested positive?
26. I feel you all kind of dropped the ball here. Our principal went over most of this. Then you just went over this again here for 30 min. Then you had canned questions that you answered in the earlier presentation. Why not take people's questions that they don't have answers to?
27. Couldn't the schools have stayed virtual and used all the money being spent on all this ridiculous equipment and used it on more supportive features for the schools in fall?? All these cameras will never be used again after this! In 3 years, this equipment will be entirely outdated anyways. I feel like this choice was a huge waste of funds that could have benefited the schools in SOOO many other ways!

28. I'm incredibly frustrated with the lack of ability to ask questions based upon tonight's presentation and things that haven't been addressed.

29. I feel like we should not have to stay and listen to this if our voices cannot be listened to in return.

30. This information is very important.

31. Perhaps administration will stay in this meeting longer to respond to these questions and concerns of the families whom they serve?

32. So 9th grade students can participate in sports, but not go to school? My child is a musician, he'd like the opportunity to participate in his curricular music classes, but his 4.0 GPA - that he worked for all year - has made it so he has to stay home. We are very disappointed.

33. How will families and staff find out when and where after/before care and Wednesday care be available?

34. We are chosen delegates to represent our individual school families and we need our questions answered in a respectful way. The way this is being done is not respecting our time.

35. Thank you, Omar, Nutrition Services has done an excellent job in these difficult times. Nutrition services have been amazing. We made our family meal together tonight :) Thank you to N.S. and the staff for putting the meals and kits together for us! (Many supported Nutrition Services with lots of shout outs.)

36. Can we have a timeline from the administration as to when questions will be answered after tonight?

37. I have heard there is a document somewhere with 107 questions by board and parents answered by administration. Does anyone know of it?

38. Thank you, Lynn & team, for working so hard to meet so many needs!

39. Students may be traveling over the holiday. Will families have to let the district know of their travels?

They may have contracted the virus and not know it. What is the protocol?