

Riverview School District No. 407
DRAFT Minutes of Reopening Advisory Committee Meeting – Secondary Only
Thursday, May 6, 2021
5:30-6:30 PM Via Zoom

The ***purpose*** of the committee will be to advise the school district on the nuances to consider as we move through the phases of Reopening. This will include discussion and recommendations concerning the structure and timing of the phases.

Meeting Norms

Engage fully: Listen, participate, come as a learner; ***Ask questions:*** Be open; ***Balance advocacy with inquiry:*** Manage your “airtime,” self-reflect; ***Honor and support group recommendations:*** Communicate a consistent message; ***Respect the expertise and experience of all group members.***

Attendees

Carrie Cain, Adam Del Rosso, Deanna Finch, Leigh-Ann Gutmann, Davin Henrikson, Amie Karkainen, Ray Labate, Kristine Nelson, Michelle Proffitt, Meisha Robertson, Carlene Schneider, Bobbi Simoni, Anthony Smith, Randy Stocker, Rachel Tomczek

Updates – Dr. Anthony Smith, Riverview Superintendent

Thank you!

Dr. Smith began with a huge thank you to the Committee for continuing Committee meetings and work all year. This Committee was critical in terms of asking questions, providing shared expertise and community knowledge, and participating in the school visitations. The collaborative efforts led to a safe and successful reopening in Riverview School District.

Thought Exchange

Dr. Smith reported that RSD launched a Thought Exchange for staff, parents, and secondary students to share what is going well and what could be improved within the current learning model. The Thought Exchange closed May 6, and data is being sorted for common themes and ideas. Additional communication needs may be identified.

Questionnaires

Dr. Smith stated that RSD will be sending out a preliminary questionnaire to parents in late June to identify preferences with the information available at that time. RSD expects to have clear, updated guidance from OSPI (Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction) and the Governor’s office prior to the launch. RSD will be sending out a final questionnaire to parents in late July to identify plans for the 2021-2022 school year.

Vision for Fall 2021

Dr. Smith suggested that elementary schools will likely work similarly to this year, except that students will have the ability to attend school with a full-time schedule. He anticipates that there will likely be fewer sections of remote learning, but it will continue to be an available option. At the secondary level, there will likely be regular school with continued masking and safety precautions. Ideally schools will move to a three-foot distance rule, which will help with lunch and class size. In RSD, the entire secondary remote learning program will likely be managed by the Riverview Learning Center, which will include Apex courses and supplemental curriculum. Concurrent learning is not expected to be offered in the fall.

April 27 OSPI Webinar Report

Dr. Smith attended a recent webinar hosted by Chris Reykdal, Washington State Superintendent. He shared three key takeaways:

- 1) OSPI is committed to getting as many students back on campus with regular school as possible.
- 2) Remote opportunities with direct instruction and support will be the remote learning model supported by OSPI. Specific guidelines will be available in the coming weeks.
- 3) Alternative Learning Experiences (ALE programs such as PARADE, CLIP, and CLEAR), are compact partnership programs with parents and schools and currently funded at 90%. These ALE programs are being redefined and could potentially be offered as a remote learning program under state guidelines and be fully funded.

Mr. Reykdal also indicated frustration that clear guidance for fall has not yet been issued from the Department of Health and the Governor's office, including on the three-foot rule. OSPI is expecting specific guidance to be released on May 15.

Other Updates

- OSPI is researching student vaccination sites.
- RSD is now offering COVID testing opportunities for students.
- RSD staff should be celebrated for the many accomplishments in the past year, including reinventing the system at least three times.
- Reminder to follow the three Riverview W's:
 - W**atch your distance
 - W**ear a mask
 - W**ash your hands often
- Possible RSD live webinar in early June, dependent on updates and clear direction. This will be an opportunity for the community to ask questions of Dr. Smith and other RSD leadership.
- Encourage everyone to continue following safety protocols outside of school. 107 TMS PM Cohort 8th graders recently moved to remote learning for two weeks due to contact tracing.

Breakout Rooms:

Dr. Smith broke the committee into two groups: Middle School (6-8) and High School (9-12). He asked the breakout groups to discuss these questions:

- a. Report Progress
- b. Any Adjustments?
- c. Provide Recommendations for Fall
- d. Share Additional Information or Input for the 2021-2022 School Year

Summary of Middle School Breakout:

Progress: TMS is moving out of crisis and into a maintenance phase. Clarification that TMS did not have an outbreak, but that there is a significant impact due to some community-based decisions. The switch to remote learning for the 8th grade PM cohort was done with the guidance from the Department of Health in order to avoid an outbreak situation. (Nurse Tomczek clarified that an outbreak is defined by the percentage of the total school population that was exposed or infected.) Families have been supportive and interested in COVID testing. Teachers report that concurrent teaching continues to be challenging, but glad to have students on campus and appreciate small class sizes. Continuing remote students are doing well.

Adjustments: TMS is working on video messaging to reinforce continuing safety measures outside of school. The Safety and Health Team is making adjustments as needed. If the distance changes to three feet, that drastically increases workload for contact tracing. A consistent group of students are regularly skipping the attestation line daily and needing to be tracked down in class. Consider adding immediate consequences, such as being sent home from school.

Recommendations: If there is no concurrent learning for secondary in the fall, that should be announced right away. Provide communication about fall plans as soon as possible to staff and families to allow for early planning, ideally before the end of this school year. The proposed spring webinar should provide actual factual and final information, rather than continued unknowns. Contact tracing is extremely time-consuming, consider additional nursing staff for fall, or part-time contact tracers.

Additional Information: Fun note that a student created a Minecraft video tour of the TMS Campus for incoming 6th graders. Questions about sports, lunches, and using the WEB program as a possible resource for 8th graders to teach protocols to incoming 6th graders. Question about timing on the edit and release of an updated Safety Health Plan prior to the July/final questionnaire. Consider additional nursing staff or part-time contact tracers for next year.

Summary of High School Breakout:

Progress: Check in process is going well and kids are following the guidelines. CHS has approximately 65% of students in person and 35% of students continuing remote. Kids still quiet in the classroom. Students are working on good study habits, expectations, and routine. Buses are crowded. Graduation scenarios being considered are the enhanced drive-through similar to 2020 or the CHS stadium, weather-permitting.

Adjustments: Wrestling team is getting 15-minute rapid COVID tests twice a week. Next week PCR testing will be available for students and staff, which are sent to a lab. Consider a community message from RSD regarding the 8th grade PM cohort situation at TMS.

Recommendations: For fall, parents and teachers want full-time, but if hybrid continues, asynchronous Wednesday has been helpful for teachers.

Additional Information: Questions about spacing on buses, COVID dashboard.

Mr. Henrikson shared comments from Mr. Hillestad. He suggested that further communication to the community is needed about the recent situation at TMS as an opportunity for transparency, as well as education about the importance of continuing to be diligent with safety measures. He also advocated for providing equitable transportation for all students, and if a hybrid model is needed for fall, that an A/B model may offer improved equity and access.

Final Committee Meeting

This was the last meeting for the Riverview Reopening Advisory Committee. It will not reconvene in the fall. Dr. Smith stated that RSD is shifting from “Reopening” to “Opening.” He again stated how important this Committee has been for checks and balances and information. The next steps will be coming from the Governor’s office and Department of Health in a sequential, logical way. The RSD focus continues to be on students, and on executing plans. Widespread vaccinations and clear guidance will help simplify planning. Dr. Smith thanked the Committee for their work and their comments throughout this process.

Minutes Prepared by:

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