

Riverview School District No. 407
Minutes of Reopening Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 1, 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

Melissa Baksa, Michael Beard, Mallory Benitz, Michelle Berens, Carrie Cain, William Chappell, Kara Crouch, Sue Davenport, Adam Del Rosso, Erika Dix Tabitha Dorn, Kristin Edlund, Michelle Frank, Leigh-Ann Gutmann, Davin Henrikson, Mark Hillestad, Amie Karkainen, Ray Labate, Lloyd McCracken, Natalee Nelson, Kristine Nelson, Brady Ockerlander, Vanessa Pegueros, Michelle Proffitt, Elsa Rindal, Meisha Robertson, Carlene Schneider, Jeremiah Simoneaux, Anthony Smith, Robert Smith, Andrew Sprute, Randy Stocker, Rachel Tomczek, Shannon Tozer, Michelle Trager, Kristin Uselman, Sabrina Warren, Emily Wheeler

Introduction – Dr. Anthony Smith, Riverview Superintendent

Celebrations

Dr. Smith praised the work of the Committee, along with the hard work of Riverview School District staff for creating viable Reopening Plans and movement ahead of the Governor’s proclamation on Reopening Schools. He noted the school visitations and great collaborations. RSD is at the front end of reopening in King County.

Reminders

Dr. Smith reminded the Committee that we are all in this together. Our children and students look to us to model positivity, and we are their advocates. Respect others during and after the meeting. Dr. Smith shared that staff are continuing to support both In-Person and Remote Learning. Dr. Smith noted that the expected transition period for the new model of concurrent learning at the secondary level is two to three weeks, so patience and support is appreciated. This is the first time teachers have used the concurrent teaching model. He also noted that while three-foot distancing has been approved for elementaries now, RSD is continuing with the current plan for the remainder of this year.

Sports

High school sports continue to follow the WESCO League mandates and safety protocols. Dr. Smith complimented Athletic Director, Jason Frederick, for keeping the Cedarcrest High School teams participating, even sometimes having to recruit different teams the day of an event. CHS is now moving into Season 2 of 3.

Testing

Dr. Smith stated that RSD is waiting on information regarding potential waivers and state testing schedules. Updates will be shared with staff as soon as guidance become available. The Federal Government has been denying waivers from other states.

Graduation

Graduation ceremony options are being considered, and again waiting on guidance in order to finalize plans. Once ready, plans will be shared widely with the community.

Substitutes

Substitutes are in high demand in RSD and throughout the region. Dr. Smith directed staff to an upcoming message clarifying that COVID Leave is available for appointments or quarantine, but not as a place holder for non-COVID related needs. He asked parents to consider becoming emergency subs and noted that more information about this will be coming soon.

Fall Reopening Vision

Dr. Smith shared his vision for fall in the Riverview School District, based on the information available right now.

- K-12 full time in-person school with allowances for 6-foot distancing during lunch time.
- Estimate 15-20% will continue remote, currently approximately 30% remote.
- RSD will send out a Survey to families at the end of this school year for data gathering.
- RSD will send out a Survey in late July/early August, asking for commitment.
- Elementary: some teachers will continue to provide Remote Learning; other Remote Learning teachers will return to in person and the demand decreases.
- Secondary: likely to continue concurrent learning in the fall to make sure we are continuing to meet the needs of Remote Learning students.
- Hopeful that by the end of the semester remote learning will fall to 5-10%, and RSD will expand the Riverview Learning Center's robust online learning program to address the need.
- Masking will continue. Follow the Riverview 3 W's: **W**atch your distance, **W**ear a mask, and **W**ash hands often.

COVID Rates

Rates are spiking up right now, and RSD continues to follow CDC, state, and PHSKC guidelines. Everyone needs to continue diligence in following guidelines to keep all people healthy and safe.

Breakout Rooms:

Dr. Smith broke the committee into three groups: Elementary (K-5), Middle School (6-8) and High School (9-12). He asked the breakout groups to discuss these questions:

For Elementary K-5

- a. Report on how In-Person and Remote Learning are going.
- b. What do students need, if anything, in terms of summer school and possible before and after school programs for remediation/acceleration? Also discuss what students have gained during this time. Many of us are more resilient, developed independent skills, etc.?

- c. What will need to be in place for the coming school year as more and more students transition back to full time In-Person Learning? Things like 6-foot distancing at lunch, etc.
- d. Please celebrate all the successes – there are many.

For Middle School 6-8

- a. Report on how reopening went last week and into this week. Today represents the one-week anniversary!
- b. What adjustments need to be made? What additional communication is needed, if any?
- c. Please celebrate all the successes thus far – there are many.

For High School 9-12

- a. Report on preparations for reopening next Wednesday.
- b. How can Reopening Advisory Committee Members support reopening for both In-Person and Remote Learning?

Summary of K-5 Elementary Breakout:

Update: Staff reports that things are going smoothly. High numbers of K/1 are back in-person and going great for this age group. Parents with Remote Learners report that students have hit their groove, working independently, and if fall is full days, families will return to in-person learning. Student participating with in-person class, but not engaging in asynchronous learning. Daily attestations are inconsistently completed.

Needs/Gains: Staff suggests that students need to build up their academic stamina. Consider remediation or summer work. Consider how to utilize specialists in the classroom. Admin noticed social emotional skills are quickly coming back.

Fall Needs: Questions about specialists, lunch without masks, cafeteria spacing, parent volunteers, and transportation. Consider alternate ways of doing things, such as students eating in the classroom. Consider needs for updating classroom furniture, as tables may not allow for spacing needs. Consider updating check-in process, and accuracy of attestations/temp checks. Idea of outdoor heated tents to create additional eating area. Elementary breakout group interested in continuing with brainstorming and ideas for reopening.

Successes: Non-verbal four-year-old said first word this week! Bus drivers set an example as models for everyone. 45 days to go! Schools reporting full vaccinated staff. Kids mindset has changed – quickly learning and following the new processes. Students are technologically savvy. One teacher reported that all but 2 students were reading at grade level. Feeling that all staff are jumping in to help wherever needed.

Summary of Middle School Breakout:

Successes: Back in school! Reduced class sizes better for learning. Good to see kids in person. Remote kids all have cameras on. Students happy to talk to other kids and have casual conversations. Students are following the rules and safety protocols, showing grace to teachers, and enjoying seeing each other on the bus. There are no issues in the classrooms. Students who quarantine are doing well with transitioning to online.

Update: Need for substitute teachers is a big concern. Three unfilled sub positions this past Monday. Parents can apply – need a bachelor's degree (college transcript) and fingerprinting. Sub pool has dropped dramatically.

Adjustments: Need additional communication from teachers working remotely. Students need variety – bored with typing at the laptop all day. Guidance with quarantining with Spring Break coming up with families traveling. Teachers want all students to have the same experience. Families in the Remote option should have expectation of coming to school to pick up supplies. Consider a formalized Summer School option for students.

Summary of High School Breakout:

Update: CHS Reopening Committee creating an FAQ for staff. Staff is excited to have kids back. Great LOOPS videos available for students, including Freshmen and students new to CHS. Schedules are mostly complete, with adjustments made as needed. Staff is flexible, and “blessing of COVID” is amazing two-way communication between staff and Admin. Mindfulness Session will be offered as a portion of 1st period every day, facilitated by Diana LaBate. Staff prepped and ready to do concurrent teaching. Questions about Contact Tracing.

Needs: Consider transportation for supply needs of continuing remote students (Wednesdays?). Librarian offered to drive Bookmobile, and CTE van is available. Need substitutes for teachers, aides, bus drivers, office staff, custodians – reach out to HR for more information. For equity reasons, consider transportation options for all students in the fall.

Committee Update

Dr. Smith thanked the Committee for all its work, reports, and participation. He shared that all of it has had an impact. This was the last meeting for the elementary participants. We now have successfully reopened at the elementary level for a month to two months, depending on grade level. We will have one more meeting at the secondary level to report progress, make adjustments, provide recommendations, and share plans for the 2021-2022 school year.

Reopening Advisory Committee Meeting Dates:

Date	Time	Location
Thursday May 6, 2021 (Secondary Only)	5:30-7:00pm	Zoom

Minutes Prepared by:

Theresa Tenney