

Riverview School District No. 407
DRAFT Minutes of Reopening Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 4, 2021
5:30-7:00 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, Shannon Durand, Kristin Edlund, Deanna Finch, Michelle Frank, Leigh-Ann Gutmann, Davin Henrikson, Vicki Hill, Mark Hillestad, Chris Hils, Amie Karkainen, Ray Labate, Amy Magness, Kristin Malone, Lloyd McCracken, Natalee Nelson, Kristine Nelson, Brady Ockerlander, Vanessa Pegueros, Michelle Proffitt, Elsa Rindal, Carlene Schneider, Jeremiah Simoneaux, Bobbie Simoni, Anthony Smith, Robert Smith, Andrew Sprute, Duane Thompson, Rachel Tomczek, Michelle Trager, Kristin Uselman, Mike Ward, Sabrina Warren, Emily Wheeler

Introduction – Dr. Anthony Smith, Riverview Superintendent

Vaccine Updates

Michelle Frank, Cherry Valley Elementary School Principal, shared that the CVE staff are helping each other find vaccination appointments. Michelle Wells, school nurse, has been sending out appointment sites to help CVE and other RSD staff find appointments after school and on the weekends.

Dr. Smith praised Molly Lutz, Director of Student Services, for personally helping 35 people get vaccination appointments. If Riverview staff needs help finding appointments, please reach out to your school Administrators and nurses.

4th/5th Return to In-Person Learning Teacher Report

Andrew Sprute, ERMA 4/5 teacher, reported that students are so excited and eager to be back on campus. Students are very willing to listen and to use the new protocols. He appreciated that he had the benefit of “standing on the shoulders of giants,” with the hard work and success of the K1 and 2/3 returns earlier. The K-3 teachers were so crucial in communicating their successes and challenges. His advice for secondary is keep communicating and check your classroom technology as soon as you can. Kids are adjusting fast to new routines and traffic flows, and the K1 students are now modeling for the older students. He experienced a boost in morale and found it so good to hear the sounds of kids back for on-site learning.

Message to Parents

Dr. Smith asked the Committee to remind parents to exercise patience as transitions are taking place. Based on school visitations, it takes approximately two weeks for elementary to adjust and approximately three weeks for secondary to adjust to the new model.

Sports

Dr. Smith reminded the Committee that Cedarcrest High School sports are aligned with the WESCO League, and continue to follow League decisions. Three seasons of sports are happening within the next 18 weeks. Watch for more communication coming soon.

Committee Purpose, Process, and Payoff

Dr. Smith restated the Committee Purpose, which was provided when the Committee was originally started and continues.

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.

The **process** of the committee will be typically set up in three parts for each meeting:

1. The first part of the meeting is designed to present information, answer questions, and conduct next steps according to committee direction from the previous meeting.
2. The second part of the meeting is designed to conduct elementary and secondary breakout groups to discuss issues specific to those levels and phased reopening.
3. The last part of the meeting is designed for breakout groups to report back key points, recommendations, and questions moving forward. This information will lead to setting the agenda for the following meeting.

The **payoff** of the committee will be a more informed Reopening Plan that takes advantage of local expertise that includes students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members.

Other Updates

Dr. Smith noted that 75% of the protocols and Safety Health Plans occur at the school building level, while the big picture is developed at the District level. PPE is organized centrally. Dr. Smith stated that meetings with labor partners are going terrific. Negotiations are occurring on Thursday and Friday, and Dr. Smith is hopeful that there will be an update to share with the community on Monday.

Fall Reopening

Dr. Smith offered the Committee that the current answer about Fall Reopening is “it depends.” Riverview School District will follow Federal and State Guidance, which has not yet been provided. No modeling or projections are available for fall. Federal and State Guidance may depend on the state of the pandemic, vaccines, and new COVID strains. As soon as information is available, the District will share it with the community.

Breakout Rooms:

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

For Elementary K-5

1. Provide an update on how reopening is going and especially at the 4/5 level that began this week.

2. What adjustments have you had to make as teachers, other staff members, and parents, since reopening began for your grade levels?
3. What adjustments still need to be addressed, including expectations, and communications?
4. Any questions, either from group members or constituencies you have visited with?
5. What, if anything, is needed for further support?

For Secondary 6-8 and Secondary 9-12

1. Provide an update on how plans for reopening are going. What has been accomplished over the past couple of weeks to move reopening forward?
2. What has been accomplished over the past couple of weeks?
3. What adjustments still need to be addressed, including expectations, and communications?
4. Any questions, either from group members or constituencies you have visited with?
5. What, if anything, is needed for further support?

Summary of K-5 Elementary Breakout:

Update: Reopening is going well, smoother than anticipated. All are getting better at it, so day one 4/5 was easier than day one K/1. Students are adjusting quickly to new routines: wearing masks and staying 6 feet apart. Kids are happy to be back; teachers are happy to have kids in the classroom. Students are feeling less isolated. Staff are looking forward to vaccinations.

Adjustments Made: Changed health room visits and early pick up of students. No breaks and planning times for teachers is hard. Changed parent drop-off and pick-up routine. Short-staffed, so posted daily supervision schedule is a help. Heavier lift for remote teachers now. Concern about classroom windows that do not open.

Adjustments Still Needed: Need timely, consistent completion of Daily Wellness Check by all families. Staff continue to reach out to Safety & Health Plan Committee as needs arise. Need “a day in the life of a remote teacher” stories for communicating with families. Need plan for full day in-person learning. Need more communication about proper mask use, washing recommendations. Concern about different guidelines for daycare, bus riding, and school. Some classroom windows do not open.

Can students that chose to remain remote now switch to in-person? Dr. Stocker answered that every school has a different number of students per grade level, both in-person and remote. Some schools may have capacity for more in-person students at a particular grade level, others may not. RSD is asking for time and patience setting up and stabilizing the new system before making changes, as staffing and capacity were based on family’s survey responses. Dr. Stocker reiterated that RSD is always looking at doing what is best for kids and they will make changes where they can. Dr. Smith added that for students who are homeless or have other desperate needs, RSD will always work to address those needs quickly.

Questions: Could remote learning stay as an option for families? Can RSD provide case count since reopening to families? Will RSD reopen fully when distance guidelines from SKCPH/DOH/CDC are lifted? Can the Committee set aside time to talk specifically about reopening fully?

Summary of Middle School Breakout:

Update/Accomplishments: Questionnaires went out to parents on Feb. 26. Most results are back, with staff contacting anyone who did not respond. Responses needed to plan for classrooms and transportation. Waiting on results of negotiations with REA to move forward. Lots of excitement for staff and kids to come back. Students wondering what school is going to look like. Systems are in place so that school can move quickly as soon as information is finalized. Staff will make it festive and fun for students and teachers. Set up is happening now. Focus

is on the Concurrent Model and making remote and in-person students both feel important. Concurrent teaching is new to teachers, so asking for grace. Will bring 6th graders and new students for in-person school first before the returning 7th and 8th grade students.

Adjustments: Health and Safety Plan was included in the Questionnaire for parents. “Day in the Life” Videos are being finalized for release early next week. Unsure what teacher office hours will look like, may shift to a different support. Students who thought they would stay remote are now seeing success in elementary and want to be in-person.

Questions: Is March 15 a realistic date/enough time? When do kids go back? What will sports look like?

Needs: Information and flexibility. Staff is ready for the unexpected, and continuing community support is critical. Add language to schedule for students AM/PM Model. Need checklist for parents. Reminder for students to eat before school, list of things to bring to school (water bottles, charged laptop), regular first day of school communications.

Summary of High School Breakout:

Update/Accomplishments: Mr. Labate shared pictures of some pathways to direct foot traffic, thermal scan devices, desk spacing in classrooms, “fast pass” lane if students have completed online attestations. Great progress for school set up, including air purifiers and hand sanitizer stations. Some challenges getting technology working to accommodate in-person and remote learning. Staff trainings are planned. Mr. Labate shared the AM/PM schedule. Staff is working on an FAQ for students. Sports have started. CHS reopening survey to be launched next week which will provide data for finalizing the plans. Staff is creating a video for Freshman.

Adjustments: LOOPS will be a big part of communication to parents and students. New staff committee starting next week to work on more details. Working on plans for students continuing in remote learning. Teach students norms for cleaning desks.

Questions: What is happening with band students during games? (*Dr. Smith answered that was a decision made by the League and outlined in League guidelines.*) Will Wednesday schedule include Advisory and Clubs? Will new HD security cameras be used for contact tracing? Could Wednesday be supply drop off day since students are not coming to schools? What is going to happen during lunch?

Needs: Consistent method of getting art supplies to students. Appeal to community and clarify messaging about return to in-person.

May and June Committee Work:

How is reopening going at the secondary level? What can we do as a school system and community to best prepare for fall scenarios?

Reopening Advisory Committee Meeting Dates:

Date	Time	Location
Thursday April 1, 2021	5:30-7:00pm	Zoom
Thursday May 6, 2021	5:30-7:00pm	Zoom

Minutes Prepared by:

Theresa Tenney