

District Planning Committee

February 1, 2022

6:30 pm

Zoom:

Participants:

Amanda Kozaka, Library Media Specialist, CEMS
Gallagher, Brianne, School Counselor, PCES
Cynthia Voltz, School Board Member
Del Peavey, Director of Special Services
Erin Taylor, School Nurse, PCES
Heather Altenburg, School Board Chair
Ingrid Whitaker, Grade 4 Teacher, PCES
Jess Rosie, Parent
Jason Manjourides, Principal, PCES
Jeff Thoreck, Athletic Director, CEHS
Jill Young, School Nurse, CEMS
Julie Merriam, Teacher, PCES
Kathleen Raftice, Director of Community Services
Katherine Bock, Science Teacher, CEHS
Kimberly Carr, School Board Vice-Chair
Karen Jenkins, School Nurse, CEHS
Kyle Morey, Assistant Principal, CEMS
Laura Ellis, Interventionist, CEMS
Marcia Weeks, Business Manager
Nathan Carpenter, Assistant Principal, CEHS
Peter Esposito, Director of Nutrition Services
Sarah Dodwell, Parent
Sarah Forrey-Pettit, Assistant Principal, PCES
Smita Sonti, School Physician
Troy Eastman, Principal, CEMS
Zakia Nelson, Parent
Michelle McClellan, Assistant Superintendent
Troy Patterson, Director of Educational Technology
John Springer, Principal, CEHS
Elizabeth Yarrington, English Teacher, CEHS
Christopher Storer, Director of Transportation
Sonia Medina, French/Spanish Teacher, CEHS
Chris Record, Superintendent

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Purpose of the District Planning Committee

- Committee of stakeholders to review and discuss Covid-19 information in order to provide the School Board and School Administration recommendations on how to operate the district for the 21-22 school year

Process

- The District Planning Committee will provide recommendations to the School Board for consideration of any changes to our Covid-19 mitigation plan.

Norms for our meeting

- Be respectful
- Share the air
- Aim for consensus
- Aim to conclude by 8:30pm

Underlying Goal: Have all Cape Elizabeth students and staff safely in school full-time for the 21-22 school year.

Background: The District Planning Committee (DPC), comprised of 30+ stakeholders, was created to review and discuss Covid-19 information in order to provide the School Board and School Administration recommendations on mitigation measures to be used in our schools during the 2021-22 school year. The DPC met on 8/4/21 and 8/12/21 to review recommendations from the CDC, the ME CDC, Dr. Shah, our school physician (Dr. Sonti), and our three school nurses. The underlying goal of the DPC and the School Board (based upon the Fall 2021 Return to School Plan) is to have all Cape Elizabeth students and staff safely in school for in-person learning full-time for the 2021-22 school year. The DPC again met on 10/5/21 to review the efficacy of the mitigation plan. The DPC recommended changes to the field trip aspect of the plan and left all other aspects as is. The DPC also met in November, December, and January to review mitigation strategies.

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Case Update in Cape Elizabeth Schools by Dr. Record

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Current Situation Update by Dr Sonti:

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Review of the Updates to the MDOE SOP

- [Standard Operating Procedure \(SOP\)](#)
 - Based upon recent guidance by the MCDC, going forward the Cape Elizabeth School Department will not be conducting contact tracing as we formally were. However, we will continue to internally examine case numbers that are occurring in our cohorts to determine if there are any concerning trends and take subsequent action based upon medical advice. Furthermore, we should consider all students and staff to be potential close contacts and therefore we should continue to monitor for symptoms, please stay home when sick even with a negative at home test, and utilize masks while on the bus, while at school, or while engaging in school activities and sports.
 - Shift from 10 days to 5 days for return from + test or close contact (not meeting exemptions)
 - We have adopted the new CDC [5-day quarantine protocol](#) for individuals who have tested positive and are asymptomatic or symptoms are improving (without fever for 24 hours).
 - Additionally, any close contacts who are not otherwise exempt due to COVID vaccination status and/or pooled testing can now follow the 5-day rule (was 10 days).

Review of Mitigation Strategies Recommended by the DPC & Adopted by the School Committee on 8/16/21 & Supported Again on 10/5/21 by the DPC & the School Board on 10/12/21

1. **Universal masking** for everyone in a school facility or transport no matter vaccination status.
 - a. Exception: Staff working alone in their classroom or workstation
 - b. Exception: Students eating at least three feet apart facing the same direction
 - c. Exception: Staff eating at least six feet apart
 - [Highly Encourage use of surgical masks, KN95](#)
 - [Extensive scientific research and data](#) on the effectiveness of mask wearing as a mitigation strategy against COVID-19.

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- A new graphic that helps to distinguish best practices for mask wearing is available, [here](#).
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2. **Pooled testing** offered to all students and staff on a voluntary basis
- Now 1446 signed up
 - However number of participants will be lower because if someone + in the last 90 days they cannot participate
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3. As much **social distancing as tenable** on school transportation, in classrooms, and in the cafeteria that allows for full-time access to learning. 3 feet distance or more will be used wherever possible.
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4. **Daily symptom checklist** conducted by parents/guardians and for parents/guardians to report absences related to these symptoms per building protocol.
- Need to emphasize this, when sick stay home
5. Continue same **hand sanitization practices** as utilized during the 2020-21 school year.
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6. Continue the same **disinfectant strategies** as utilized in the spring of 2020-21 (staff wipe down surfaces at least once per day on top of nightly disinfection).
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7. Allow for only **outdoor field trips**.
- **Recommended Change: Allow for indoor field trips that meet the following conditions (supported by the School Board on 10/12/21):**
 - Only for grades with the vast majority of students are 12+ in age

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- Once students under 12 have had access to a Covid-19 vaccine and have had enough time for the immune response, indoor field trips will be available for K-12 students
 - Approved by principal and school nurse
 - Consideration of current Covid-19 data
 - Consideration of ventilation at the venue
 - Host compliance with mitigation measures
 - Venue is closed to the public
 - No crossover with other schools
 - Utilizing cohorts that are already in place
 - Universal masking for students, staff, and hosts while inside the venue
 - Utilization of sanitization when entering and exiting the venue
 - Follow school protocols for students and staff eating
 - Follow transportation protocols (universal masking, sanitizing, assigned seats, & ventilation)
8. Limit **non-essential visitors/volunteers** inside the school building.
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Other Mitigation Strategies Needed?

- Student Booster Clinic?

Winter Activities (Winter sports almost over)

- Winter sports, upcoming plays and concerts, and other similar events
 - Universal masking for everyone in the building
 - Social distance as much as possible
 - Any changes warranted?
 - Discuss return to activity protocol in use for positive cases
 - Update by A.D. Jeff Thoreck

Update on 1 Year Nurse Position & Admin Assistant Position

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Initial Discussion

- Discuss a potential “Off Ramp” to alter some mitigation measures if “X/Y/Z” parameters are met

Any Changes Recommended by the DPC to be Considered by the School Board?

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Next Meeting 3/15/22 6:30pm