

Mansfield School Committee
Return to Learning Subcommittee
Minutes for February 9, 2021

A meeting of the Mansfield School Committee Return to Learning subcommittee was opened and called to order at 8:03am.

Attendees: Lauren Scher, Linda Fernando, Teresa Murphy, Michael Connelly

Approval of Minutes

January 12, 2021 - approved.

New Business

- *Transition to in-person learning.*
 - Robinson – kindergarten
 - Working w Christine Dooling to review metrics and recent trends. This includes week by week changes to students in quarantine, number of positive cases and number of new town cases.
 - We have been seeing a decline in cases across the district, and only a small number of cases at the Robinson School (or across the district).
 - Still on track for the March 1 deadline for bringing the K students back in full time.
 - There are still logistic issues to resolve. Mike is reaching out to neighboring districts who have students in school to understand how they're managing it. It is important to consider their specific situations – building size, state "color" designation, staff capacities, etc.).
 - In communicating the date, we want to be clear and consistent; relying on the publicly available dashboard probably makes the most sense. The main messaging right now is that the numbers are low and there has been minimal evidence of in-school transmission. However, things can always change, and we are monitoring carefully. A FAQ for families might be helpful.
 - We will need to monitor carefully to see if there is a potential spike after February vacation.
 - As of now: 171 respondents (76%) to the recent Robinson Kindergarten survey with 149, 87% selecting in-person and 22 families, or 13% chose Virtual Remote Cohort (VRC). A few people have switched cohort (9 students from VRC to in person, one student from hybrid to VRC). School staff will reach out to those who don't respond.
 - The plan, as of now, would be to retain the two virtual kindergarten classes (about 22 students in each).
 - Mike will be meeting with Robinson staff and others over the next week. One issue that is still being resolved is how students will experience programming if they are required to quarantine. No option is perfect; all have pros and cons. Some options include:
 - Option 1: absent and send work home – asynchronous school work (which is what typically would happen pre-pandemic).
 - Option 2: Quarantine the whole class for a period of time.
 - Option 3: Quarantining student connects virtually; this may be challenging with this age group. Or possibly moving students into virtual temporarily.

- Other logistical issues
 - Buses – might need to tweak the routes or consider changes in pick up times, particularly on Wednesdays.
 - Desks – these will be added during February vacation break.
- Vaccine – They are hoping March and aim to hold clinics on Wednesdays for first round.
- The district has not set a time for adding other grade levels. We will evaluate bringing in other grades after Kindergarten gets in and look to see how it's going.
- *Structured Learning Time*
 - DESE released a new survey due this week. DESE will be holding office hours for questions. They are asking to round to the nearest 0.25 and want to see the MOA with the union. There is also a requirement to note if there are plans to change any of the models any time during the remainder of the school year.

Meeting adjourned: 8:58am.