

## **12/7/20 Parent Stakeholder Meeting Notes**

David asked the principals to share the results of their parent/school site stakeholder meetings. A few principals shared their results.

David shared feedback that distance learning improved. Hybrid was well received. The asynchronous time was not good. A few principals shared their feedback.

David shared that over the next several days, sites will have scheduled townhalls meetings for parent feedback. How can we get more parents to show up? We need feedback from each school to help us in planning the next school offering. In August we were planning to offer three models: full time distance learning for parents that wanted to keep their kids at home and full-time school (5 days a week) and then the hybrid. We ended up offering just the hybrid except for a couple of schools based on based on space and scale. In the summer time we had about 5,000 in the free summer learning program and that was less than a third of our students. To go from one third to a 100% we felt we did not have enough assurances in place to do it safely. Based on our safety model now, we are following guidelines and cleaning and disinfecting. We have been lucky to avoid any outbreaks in our schools. The kids have been so good. We need to re-ask the parent group for the input for the remainder of the year. Maybe not right away in January but we need to plan and hire now for the transition to accommodate the needs of our families and provide more services for our students.

Nikki shared maybe mailers or a broadcast on the radio.

Roberta shared parents will show up if students are involved.

David shared he would love to do a student townhall meeting.

Sabrina shared the Crest students are 5 days a week and they are happy to be back.

David shared if we are to offer more school or move to a 5 day a week model, it would mean we would have to change something. With the current model, we either need to combine cohorts or have smaller class sizes in grades 4-8 for a safe environment. There would be some change and those are the things we struggle with right now. We would love to hear from parents on whether we leave everything status quo for the remainder of the year or explore changing the model to accommodate parents for school every day. Our goal is to say yes to every parent and their needs.

Ban shared she hopes that school will go back 5 days a week as soon as possible. She needs to return to work. It's hard for parents.

David shared if we need to bring students back we may need to consolidate cohorts to accommodate everyone's return. Does that factor in to your feeling or decisions?

Tanya shared communication at RSD is good. No one expects all of you to have all the answers. I think everyone in this district has done a fabulous job. Ability to have conversations with district and school helps instill trust to make sure our kids are safe. COVID numbers fluctuate so much based on holidays and having open communication about family comfort levels.

Kate thanked district for keeping schools open and knows it is not an easy task. She worries about the switching of schedules again.

April shared hoping they can go back to five days a week and knows that would mean schedule changes. Emotionally wellbeing is more important. My kids miss school so much and we can't wait to go back. She is okay with mixing cohorts.

Brooke shared she prefers full time but need to go slow. Appealing to neighboring districts.

Karla shared she is concerned that some parents are not having students wear masks or socially distancing and teaching their kids that COVID is a hoax. She would love to send her student back to school but until we can make some of these parents care about other students and staff and keeping them safe. I trust the hybrid model and what steps we have taken to get us there but when I see these parents not staying safe, it's scary.

Nikki shared she recently sent her daughter back to in-person. A lot of us live in apartment complexes and we need to be safe. It's different for each family and their needs.

Pang shared the changes for her student was difficult. She does not want to see another change. She wants them to go back 100% but not right now. We start with the new school year not now. Every family is different and she trusts the district with whatever decision is made.

Valerie shared she trusts her schools completely with her child's safety. Her concern is that her middle schooler may not want to change teachers again. Asked if this would be a site decision or across the board decision.

David shared the parent townhalls will tell us that. If parents want to stay the same then we want to serve the needs of the parents. We need to lean into the feedback.

Jemima shared (in the chat) she agrees with keeping the rest of the year as is at the moment. She is not sure how to increase students on campus with the regulations. They have a number of parents who are still concerned, with the spike in numbers I'm not sure going back full time at our site is a possibility. Also wondering how many changes in one school year for teachers and students to change again.

Valerie shared there is nothing wrong with change. Change is going to happen and she hopes it does. Kids are resilient. Her kids are in EDP and school. Parents have a huge platform because we get to decide our kids future right now.

Karen Minshew (Asst Supt of Ed Services) shared she has received feedback to hold through June. We need to continue to plan and this may need to go through the 2022 school year.

Michelle Hayes (Asst Supt of Personnel) shared we need to plan for staff and hiring. The workload of the distance learning days and tracking kids is hard to manage. Trying to make this more sustainable for staff.

David shared we are trying to solve for both parents and staff. We need to do this in a safe way to avoid any spread at school.

Tanya shared how can we address the changing needs for families and staff. Could we make the current models we have more flexibility.

Brooke shared overflows for hybrid no transportation is not available. Something for consider as you plan.

David shared in the beginning of the year, we staffed to capacity so there was no room for a move to a different model. In the future, we will not staff to capacity to leave some room for flexibility.

Heather shared she is an advocate for five days a week. There has been so much change and we are in a safe spot going two days a week. They are dealing with a lot of emotions. We are rolling with it and will support kids and students where needed. She thanked the district for letting parents be so involved. She has friends all over the country and they have no idea what is going on in their district. She feels we have been so transparent and keeping us updated and she feels parents have a voice. We feel safe and would love to go back five days a week but are content are okay no matter what.

Chrissy shared she is really sad for her community. She feels other districts are opening 5 days a week and they are losing families that all have grown up together. She heard people are concerned about others political beliefs, mask wearing or overreach by Governor Newsom, the core of her trusts her community. If someone is sick, they stay home. You can trust your neighbor. You can open five days, you have everything you need.

Jo thanked David for all the communication. We have a spectrum for the various needs. Leadership is here to hear your voices. Staff also needs to be heard. Home school is also available.

Kate shared kids are in trauma and trauma informed education is based on relationships. Need to consider this when trying to change things for students. Have more after school clubs and passion based activities for kids. Need those creative solutions for engagement.

Robert shared it would be nice to return 5 days a week, but it just does not seem many will buy into it. Especially with maintaining the distance and cleaning supplies. Many parents are

concerned about the attendance issue and yet want the tutoring available. Need to keep the same for now.

La Tresia shared she is up for anything right now. It is running same. Staff feels right now is okay for and to keep for the remainder of the year. Teachers love the smaller class sizes, normally he has 35 students. It's good to look at things and change. Let's focus on the community needs and that is working parents.

Christina shared she has been really thankful for this school year. The only sore spot was the shake up with the changes in the beginning. It was really hard and other than that it was a really good year. We should make it through this year and start fresh next year with something different would be mor manageable. I don't think parents realize the value of their input at the townhalls.

David shared if you haven't already at your townhall, please share your feedback. We do value your feedback for planning. He thanked everyone for attending this call.

#### **Comments from the chat:**

Ban:

I trust my kids school and I know that Magnolia and Greenfield are doing their best to keep my kids save, and I know that many other parents don't want their kids to go back to school and I respect that! Let's re-open the schools for the parents whom want their kids back to school because we are in an urgent need for that! My kids are missing being with their teachers and friends, they need their social live and activities back!

Sonya:

I think the current model should continue, since there is a choice of hybrid or distant learning. The rise in cases is a concern for me, but a gradually increase in days for hybrid learning (as mentioned) would be more appealing then jumping into 5 days a week. This is coming from a parent on the fence.

Nicole:

I have 3 kids in district TK, 2nd, and 6th. Our family would choose 5 day. my kids need it. The days they go they are so happy. my middle schooler is struggling, his grades are fine because we spend lots of time working with him and he has an IEP and gets some extra help, but his social emotional well being is not well. He wants to get back full time.

Brooke:

Maybe bring back the small videos to showing all the hard work our staff is doing and how happy the kids are. Showcase each school like we used to. I believe parents want to see what's happening behind the gates.

Valerie:

Thank you all for hearing my input and opinion. I appreciate everyone in the district and especially our Principal Sara Robinson at Magnolia. She has been an amazing leader during throughout and even more so during this pandemic. I know we all want what's best for our "kiddos & Little friends" but nothing is going to happen without change. We have the opportunity to make the changes progressively rather than making the change overnight like before. At our school it's been working so I don't see how regression is better than progression. I have to leave this meeting but it's been great hearing everyone's input thus far. Happy Holidays!!!!!!