

**Return to Learn Committee Meeting-Notes
September 14, 2020, 10:00 AM.**

Members Present-

Laurie Boland, Jr./Sr. High Representative X
Mary Charlton, Parent Representative, Epidemiologist X
Andy Cutter, Board President/Parent
Tim Foley, Jr./Sr. High Assistant Principal X
Joy Kelly, Head of Schools X
Dan Livorsi, Parent Representative, Infectious Disease Physician X
Jess Pizana, Tech Director Regina Education Center X
Larry Pohren, Jr./Sr. High Representative X
Glenn Plummer, Jr./Sr. High Principal X
Kris Rutt, K-6 Elementary Representative
Melinda Shetler, Parent X
Shane Schemmel, Communication and Marketing Director X
Kelly Starr, Elementary Assistant Principal X
Celeste Vincent, Elementary Principal X

Meeting started at 10:00 AM

- **Injunction of mask mandate of governor -**
 - HOS, Joy Kelly, shared information she has learned from AEA meeting, superintendent meeting, and the Diocese of Davenport. While there is the idea throughout the AEA to wait and see, there is indication that even if the injunction is reversed it **could** potentially be months away.
 - Recommendation from this committee is for the diocese to consider that ICCSD and other area schools will likely move to a mask mandate, children under 12 are still not vaccinated, and although the numbers may not spike significantly, the reality is that the number of people with COVID is higher, but don't know it. Those individuals remain contagious.
 - For now, Regina is on hold until more guidance comes from the Diocese.
- **Injunction specifically cited public schools, but it also said they must follow the law, which then also includes accredited non-public schools.**
 - Diocese is consulting with legal counsel for clarification.
- **Anonymous 7-12 Vaccination Survey results -**
 - 349 students - 289 students responded
 - Fully vaccinated = 241 or 83.4%
 - Partially vaccinated = 1 or .3%
 - Not eligible yet for vaccination but plan to be = 9 or 3.1%
 - Do not intend to get vaccinated = 13 or 4.5%
 - Prefer not to respond = 24 or 8.3%

- The number of fully vaccinated 7-12 students is encouraging.

- **Other Comments and Discussion**

- Question regarding a mask requirement after school hours for activities. Required verses not required time at school. Will have to wait to see the Diocesan guidance about school before moving to activities.
 - Comment: masking indoors during school hours makes sense but that after school activities would be highly encouraged but optional.
- Why would we ask our jr/sr high students to mask with such a high percentage vaccinated? Something to consider is that we are a PreK - 12 education center with a large number of students who are not yet age eligible to receive the COVID vaccination. These students share spaces (cafeteria, music rooms, art rooms) with the older students.
- PreK-6: Will continue to notify families of classroom exposure and close contacts. Exposure notifications to classrooms have increased mask usage in the elementary.
- 7-12: Will only provide notification of close contacts. With no masking mandate in place families need to assume students are exposed every day at school.
- Regina cannot require quarantine unless there is involvement of Johnson County Public Health and even then they have to issue the order.
- Important to stress to families that if their student has any symptoms, it is imperative that they keep the student home.
- Testing is in high demand in the area and it may take longer to get test results returned.
- Idea of a masking pledge is on hold for now. Will wait for Diocesan guidance.
- Question asked about the capacity of area hospitals. Not known.
- Where do we want to be?
 - Comment: we should consider what ICCSD schools and other area schools are doing.
 - Comment: masking will help reduce other illnesses as we move forward.
 - Comment: we all were able to successfully mask last year
 - Comment our 7-12 and staff can mask to help protect those who aren't vaccinated.
 - Comment: though the risk to young children is low, the virus is hitting this age group harder than before, but hopefully with a vaccine coming soon and perhaps masks would be unnecessary by spring.