

Return to Learn Committee Meeting-Notes
December 27, 2021, 9:00 AM

Members Present-

Laurie Boland, Jr./Sr. High Representative
Mary Charlton, Parent Representative, Epidemiologist
Andy Cutter, Board President/Parent
Tim Foley, Jr./Sr. High Assistant Principal
Sarah Haskell, Parent Representative, Pediatrics Critical Care Physician
Joy Kelly, Regina Head of School
Sue Kloos, Regina Health & Safety Committee
Jess Pizana, Tech Director Regina Education Center
Glenn Plummer, Jr./Sr. High Principal
Shane Schemmel, Communications and Marketing Director
Melinda Shetler, Parent
Kelly Starr, Elementary Assistant Principal
Celeste Vincent, Elementary Principal

Members Unable to Attend -

Dan Livorsi, Parent Representative, Infectious Disease Physician
Larry Pohren, Jr./Sr. High Representative
Kris Rutt, K-6 Elementary Representative
Rich Smith, Regina Director of Facilities

Meeting Began at 9:00 AM

Mask Mandate Discussion:

1. The situation is different since the mask mandate went into effect. The Omicron variant had not yet emerged and it's moving rapidly.
2. Head of School has been in contact with the Diocese of Davenport, Regina Return to Learn physician Committee members and JCPH.
3. Johnson County is currently in high transmission rate status.
 - JCPH advises against schools/districts creating their own matrix around masking; follow the CDC/JCPH guidance.
 - The current vaccination rate of Regina students and staff is not relevant at this point. When community transmission is substantial or high (Johnson Co is high right now), the spread is more likely merely by living life. Until community spread falls to the moderate level, masks should be worn indoors.
 - The effectiveness of the vaccination is waning without the booster; should encourage boosting to the greatest extent possible and retain masks.
4. Discussion about the masks for Regina.
 - Review of Regina attendance data indicates that masking reduced illnesses and absences at Regina. Graph was shared for the center for all three programs (preschool, elementary, jr./sr. high) for the fall for quarantines and positive cases.
 - One recommendation to remove the enforcement of visitors coming for events as it is difficult to manage. Remind and expect our own students and staff to wear masks at evening/weekend activities.
 - How to get our own adults and patrons to wear masks? Discussion
 - Suggestion- Add the COVID tracker link to the CDC levels to the website.
 - If all parties are masked, then there is not a need for close contacts to quarantine.
 - Emphasis of discussion of fluidity - this situation is changing rapidly and Regina needs to continue to adjust accordingly and be careful not to establish hard deadlines. It's important to avoid bouncing back and forth between having to wear masks and not.

Decisions

- More announcements will be made at events and masks will be provided to those who don't have them.
- Add the CDC COVID tracker to the Regina website resources page.

- Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to the Regina Board of Education that the maske mandate should remain in place, understanding that the Court of Appeals could make a ruling at any time that would change the injunction that currently exists.

Question on at-home learning if requested: Protocols regarding students who test positive or are quarantined will remain in effect. There is no plan to offer remote learning for the general student population.

Federal OSHA Vaccination Mandate Discussion:

Discussion on the federal mandate requiring private employers with 100+ employees to gather proof of vaccination status or require weekly COVID testing. There was a court-ordered stay on the mandate but that has been lifted. Regina was collecting vaccination records from employees but stopped doing so once the stay was ordered. That has now been lifted and Regina, by law, will proceed with securing vaccination records again. Reminder: This is not a Regina rule, a Board of Education rule, or a Diocesan rule - this is a federal law and employers who do not abide by this will be assessed substantial fines.

Meeting closed at 9:32 AM