

Return to Learn Committee Open Forum Meeting-Summary

February 10, 2022, 9:00 AM

Committee 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, Pediatric Critical Care Physician
Joy Kelly, Regina Head of School
Dan Livorsi, Parent Representative, Infectious Disease Physician
Glenn Plummer, Jr./Sr. High Principal
Shane Schemmel, Communications and Marketing Director
Melinda Shetler, Parent
Kelly Starr, Elementary Assistant Principal
Celeste Vincent, Elementary Principal

Committee Members Unable to Attend -

Sue Kloos, Regina Health & Safety Committee
Jess Pizana, Tech Director Regina Education Center
Larry Pohren, Jr./Sr. High Representative
Kris Rutt, K-6 Elementary Representative
Rich Smith, Regina Director of Facilities

Meeting Began at 9:00 AM

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer - Joy Kelly, Regina Head of School
2. Greeting -- Andy Cutter, Regina Board of Education President/Regina Parent
 - a. Origination of Return to Learn Committee
 - b. Explanation of meeting format - participants asked to indicate in the chat area if they want to speak, or have a question for the committee
3. Return to Learn full committee list shared on screen and also is posted on the website
4. Dr. Dan Livorsi, Committee member/Regina Parent/Infectious Disease Physician: reviewed local COVID data and shared the metrics that have been monitored by the committee.
5. General Themes from Community Members included:
 - Thanking committee members for their time and work on the committee.
 - Glad that Regina has been able to prioritize in-person learning
 - Concerns that the mask mandate has gone on too long
 - Concerns regarding mental health and social/emotional issues students might be experiencing because of masking
 - Concerns for children who have speech pathology needs not being able to participate fully and not see teacher's mouths
 - Expressed that vaccinations, boosters and N95 masks are readily available and that people should be responsible for their own way to deal with managing Covid risk and protecting themselves
 - Community spread and Regina spread numbers are lower
 - Other schools in Iowa, surrounding counties and the diocese are not masking
 - Concern regarding Johnson County stats being skewed due to Univ. of Iowa student population
 - Concern regarding Regina administration wearing ineffective cloth masks
 - Comment that school is not a choice, sports/activities are a choice
 - Concern that lifting the mask mandate too soon could result in needing to go back to it too soon
 - Concern about how students are treated by staff for not wearing masks correctly
 - Question about what parameters the committee uses to make decisions
 - Question about when Regina will be able to return to gathering and doing activities that have been canceled or changed due to covid protocols
 - Concerns that cloth masks are ineffective and the risk vs benefit needs to be considered
 - Omicron while the most contagious has a significantly lesser severity level and is trending down everywhere

It was emphasized that the committee has worked together and no one person has made a singular decision. The goal has always been to have as much in person learning at Regina as possible and protect student, staff and family health. The committee takes new information into account, uses data as it becomes available, and has considered things such as the school's due diligence, legal implications, lack of availability of substitute teachers and more. The committee relies on the diocese for legal guidance. The committee has already been actively discussing when the mask mandate should end and doesn't want it to go on indefinitely either.

Meeting ended at 10:02