

	Superintendent Coffee Hour May 11	Employee Forum May 20	Public Forum May 24	Other written correspondence
<p><b>Remote Instruction to Continue in Some Form</b></p>	<p>Not particularly important or necessary for pandemic; remote option still desirable for some students; if we offer it to some students, what safeguards or guidelines would be in place to ensure student success? Would there be entrance criteria or some qualifications? Meeting with parents to plan/consider? We should keep the remote option during snow days. Although it was great to have a remote option during the pandemic it doesn't seem that it would be necessary going forward. Most kids/families definitely want to return to school. If it is difficult to do, we would not want it to interfere in any way with the real-time instruction of students in the classroom. If it is offered, how would we allow it for some kids but not for others? It seems that it would be difficult to do that. We have invested much in technology, so we do want to leverage that to enhance the educational opportunities of all students. Technology should be used to provide meaningful accessibility to the curriculum.</p>	<p>With all VLACS etc. options and other remote options, if we have no remote option we may lose students. That may not work at middle and elem but high school may be important. A fully remote classroom worked but it was a tremendous amount of work. Now that we are back in school it may not make sense unless it was a class that a student couldn't get. There are many hands-on activities that are important to the education of students, that just don't work well remotely. I've tried hard but it is very difficult to do. If we had to - and there was a full classroom - it may be ok. At high school level, it works well for some classes, but does not work as well for others at all. Ex. band and shop or gym don't work well remote. Having an option to choose remote with no criteria could inadvertently enable kids to be out of school - not value education - or work during the day while they should be in school. Don't see why it is necessary since there are other options to learn remotely (home school, VLACS). We should not do it. If one child who is remote qualifies for free lunch, we would need to provide remote meals. Interpersonal interaction is very important in some classes - in real life - for example choral recitation in Spanish. Kids at home did not always use their cameras which made it more difficult to teach pronunciation and other aspects. It is not impossible but is a struggle. If we do it, then we need to be careful about which courses are offered remotely. A number of teachers at IHGMS have shared that it is very difficult to effectively teach remote and in person students at one time. They would prefer not to have a remote option next year. If there is such a decision, there need to be qualifying criteria; engagement, attendance, work production, academic success, etc. There should be administrative approval based on the criteria. Doing remote and in person instruction is extremely tough. If there is a remote option, there must be strict requirements - like VLACS has. Alternatively, we have invested in technology and this increases student access to the course and their education. Some kids perform well in remote instruction; however teachers need to see faces; students should be required to use their cameras during remote instruction. We should keep the remote option in place at all times, at least in some classes. We would need more computers (for computer class) for example to make that happen. Some classes are conducive to remote and others are not. Also, while the world is moving in this direction, we don't actually need to offer remote instruction across the board. It is important for kids to be in school socially, developmentally, etc. There is value for students to be in school, especially at certain ages. It places a huge burden on teachers plus it is not necessarily what is best for kids. We should be cautious about this. The in and out of choice of remote vs in person instruction has been very difficult. This should not continue regardless of what is decided. From a parent perspective, it is hard to work with remote kids. It is very difficult to get the attention of students and support them remotely even with requirements to keep cameras on, etc. It is tough for the remote kids to interact with kids at school - and most students with disabilities would not be recommended for remote instruction due to their difficulties.</p>	<p>The least amount of restrictions for the children, the better. Start getting back to normal distances, and no masks. As close to normal as possible given the guidelines. Kids want to be back to normal; her son has a hard time breathing with the mask especially due to head gear orthodontics. It is stressful doing remote instruction - we want a normal routine as much as possible. In terms of remote instruction, it is an opportunity at the older grades to offer some classes that we might not be able to offer in the past. Would like to investigate sharing of classes by offering them remotely to other schools, etc. Using technology in other ways would be great - kids are hoping for no masks next year. Families who like the remote learning - may survey families to determine the interest. If there are enough students interested perhaps we should do that.</p>	<p>All students should be expected to return to on site learning.</p>
<p><b>Health Screenings Daily for Students and Employees</b></p>	<p>We should default to guidelines from DHHS/CDC in relation to this matter. It was difficult to switch the method mid year (paper to app). The app is very easy to use. However, the screenings aren't really effective because they don't detect cases. Folks go quickly through the motions; it's checking a box for a 'feel good' measure. It is easy to disregard and just check the boxes as 'no' daily. It is not effective in rooting out cases; the app has sped up the process in the morning, but some kids whose parents don't do it need to be pulled out of class to do it.</p>	<p>The screenings are pretty close to useless and a large waste of time. Parents can check no, no, no... and it's too easy to lie. It's an extra thing but not very beneficial. We should not do it unless it is required. It's not detecting cases; it is a test to remember to do it each morning; kids should not be pulled out of classroom to do this. We did 17K screenings this year and detected 2 students who turned out to be positive. Parents are still giving their kids tylenol and sending them to school, as they did before.</p>	<p>Screenings are good for me.</p>	<p>Do not require health screenings - they don't detect cases.</p>

<p><b>Social Distancing</b></p>	<p>It is extremely difficult to make kids adhere to social distancing. Parents want the requirement to go away; even in school when we have had to quarantine because the students were within 6 feet of a positive case, there was no positive transmission. It makes one wonder if the social distancing is as key as the CDC indicates. Perhaps the masks are more key to prevention.</p>	<p>Will we try to keep to rules that just aren't in society any more? These requirements are going away everywhere now. Indoors, masks still make sense. It is sometimes hard to assist kids and still be three feet apart. Vaccination effectiveness not clear; not all are vaccinated. Outdoors folks should be able to take off masks and not worry about social distancing. Unless there is a resurgence and there is specific guidance about masks and social distancing, we should not require it. Students still have sleepovers, sports, and all types of activities where they there is no social distancing. There is too much time getting after kids about the 6 feet social distancing. It is very difficult and a terrible way to go through the day as an educator. In the absence of that, we should move ahead and this will help us build relationships with kids without pestering them about these rules at school. Kids are not socially distanced outside of school and this is where the transmission is occurring. There may come a time that it is required based on data; we cannot ever be in a position to differentiate between vaccinated vs not vaccinated. This should no longer be required (masks). Sharing of materials needs to be relaxed very much so they can use Board games, etc. Eliminate requirement for masks and social distancing both indoors and outdoors. Recess is important for learning social behavior, and this is very difficult if kids are 6 feet apart at recess.</p>	<p>If the CDC is not requiring it, we should not require it. Stay within the guidelines but if there is a way not to impose it on students - especially during recess - that would be better.</p>	<p>Reduce social distancing to at least 3 feet, including inside with masks off (snack and lunch).</p>
<p><b>Mask Use</b></p>	<p>Those who have been fully vaccinated can make the decision on whether or not to wear a mask. Employees were under the impression that if they were fully vaccinated they would not need to wear masks. The virus does not impact young people as much as older ones; the CDC now allows some students to be vaccinated, depending on the age. Masks should be optional for those vaccinated. We don't always know who has been vaccinated, however. The more folks are vaccinated the chance of transmission is reduced. I don't think we should be required to wear masks; folks don't wear them in other aspects of life. We should follow CDC guidelines, and they are saying that we don't need to wear them. I don't think wearing masks are effective for very young kids. Guidance on the effectiveness of masks has changed over time. I hope that masks won't be required when school opens next year. How effective will the vaccine prove to be in relation to COVID-19 variants. It is unclear whether or not the State will provide specific guidance regarding masks and other issues related to reopening. We cannot rely on the NHDOE to provide much guidance.</p>	<p>In addition to above; we need breaks from masks use; we may need to do it again during flu season or if there is a resurgence, but a break now will help. Masks interfere with social cues interpretation and speaking/hearing.</p>	<p>Wish we would not need to wear them. Would rather have more education about handwashing, etc, and taking them to wash their hands more often. Keep up this health related challenge.</p>	<p>Please don't require masks. Masks should be optional.</p>
<p><b>Sanitizing Routines</b></p>	<p>We have been disinfecting frequently, but the new guidelines issued do not recommend the frequent use of spray disinfectant. They emphasize more cleaning and less disinfecting - we should go in that direction. The cleaning of furniture and materials very frequently does not do much and is no longer recommended. We should adjust the plan to match the new guidance. I like to hear that we would be scaling back on the use of harsh chemicals since the virus is primarily airborne. The reduction of flu cases has been great - and I think that the frequent cleaning that we have been doing has helped with that.</p>	<p>The kids are well trained to clean up which is good; we should continue with that especially if we have reduced masks/social distancing. In cafeteria, they clean the tables many more times per day. It is very challenging. It causes much extra work for certain departments such as food service or custodian. Is it really cost effective? The janitors don't mop often, though there is sanitizing in the classroom. It would be good to see the custodians get back to a more normal routine. Not sure sure that this type of sanitizing is very effective. We may be able to streamline this more. Expenses have gone up - may not be the most important things.</p>	<p>Lots of planning has gone into it and we have had little transmission in schools; it seems to be working well.</p>	
<p><b>Transportation</b></p>	<p>I (Tina) think that seating charts on the bus will still be important, and that if anywhere, masks should be worn on the bus since they are close together and masks are required on mass transit. It may be ok to have masks on the bus since kids sit side by side, but I don't think kids should be required to wear a mask in the classroom. I'd like to see less mask wearing in the fall. Masks interfere with socialization (facil expressions, etc.).</p>	<p>We know social distancing is not possible on buses. The rules for masks should be the same on the buses as i nthe schools, whatever is decided. It may not be a need for us to continue these practices.</p>	<p>Hope we won't have to wear masks on the bus; bus companies may require it. One complaint about the windows being open is that the students are cold.</p>	

<b>Technology Use</b>	No comments.	The technology that we have been given over the past year is amazing! We would love to have more training to use the technology in exciting ways; more time to collaborate with others and show others what we have learned etc. would be fantastic. We want to use them to even more to enhance education. Communication seems to have improved significantly with the new technology. We all (staff) have computers now and can do all kinds of cool things with them!	At the high school, they were not allowed to bring their own laptops - perhaps they could be a waiver for them to use their own laptops- I like that the kids are using many platforms and becoming independent in communicating with teachers, etc. Maybe some modern day penpals with kids or classrooms far away, or partnerships with classrooms far away. Try to leverage the technology to be prepared to use technology if it is needed for remote instruction for individualized or unforeseen circumstances. Homework could be done on the computer, rather than having students bring many books home. Also, we could tuition in students from surrounding towns who want to participation.	
<b>School Lunch and Breakfast Programs</b>	No comments except from Superintendent would like to see lunch be the important social time that it should be, and allow kids to sit closer together. We will see what new guidelines say.	Can't wait to have two lines at IHGMS - we need it. The decision needs to be consistent with other time periods - etc. if kids are side by side at recess, for example, why must they be 6 feet apart when eating? If there are long lines at IHGMS, it is because they are short staffed. Looking forward to the time when the tables are not so far apart - as this interferes with lines.	None	
<b>Before School and LEAP</b>	No specific comments.	Whatever is decided - they will follow suit. Sharing of materials is the toughest thing.	None	
<b>Athletics</b>	Would like to see more fans allowed, especially outside. Decisions should be data driven (cases, transmission, vaccination rate. Hope for normalcy.	There is little transmission in most sports- they need to be back.	For my kids, having athletics made a huge difference - glad there were teachers who would coach. It meant so much to the kids. After school activities too - we are grateful.	
<b>Facilities Use</b>	Those who use outside facilities should follow our rules.	As much as humanly possible, and safely, we need to get back to normal as much as we possibly can - top help out the community and all of us to get back to normal. The rec department suffered greatly due to restrictions; this was tough. Time for use was cut down. Alternatively, we could transition to that after we have looted our requirements.	I'd like to see Scouts return to the school; the masks required issue could be tough - would like to see if masks could be optional or not not required. Having the use of indoor space again for cheerleading and other groups important to kids.	
<b>Visitors &amp; Volunteers</b>	We miss being in the school and volunteering - there is no substitute for being in the school.	Get them back in if they will show up - we are short handed!	Open back up.	
<b>Other</b>	No other specific comments.	Music programs have been devastated. We have an extra layer of protection in singing; singing is so important in all grades of music programs. The ensembles and enrollment has been so adversely impacted. Music programs need to be supported in order to bounce back. We need the District and Board to support the music programs in order to recover and boost it back up over time. It will take support over 5-7 years to get back to where it was. ALSO..... has there been talk of requiring students to be vaccinated? NO, I said. Joe says he does not see how that would ever be required.	Get parents back in the building - but continue the Google meets for p/t conferences since it helps some parents. Keep pushing for increased attention and support for students and staff at risk for mental health issues, student behavioral health, employee supports. Bring back more events - without restrictions on the number of guests that can attend - we need normalcy and traditional events. Consider the financial impact to families next year in relation to charges for internet access if we go full remote or hybrid next year.	