



## **REPORT OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Health and Safety Committee (HSC) met on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 11:30 AM via the Blue Jeans Video Conferencing Tool.

The public viewed the meeting via Video Conference.

### **ATTENDEES**

#### Health and Safety Committee Members

Chairperson Melanie Bates, *absent*; Eve Bolton, Ben Lindy

#### Board Members

Pamela Bowers, Carolyn Jones, Board President

#### Cincinnati Children's Hospital

Robert S. Kahn, MD, MPH, Associate Chair of Community Health, UC Department of Pediatrics

#### Administration/Staff

Laura Mitchell, Superintendent; Krista Boyle, Chief Strategic Engagement Communications Officer; Susan Bunte, Assistant Superintendent; Loren Johnson, Director of Transportation; Sarah Trimble-Oliver, Chief Strategy Officer

### **Collaboration to "learn faster" with Children's Hospital**

Dr. Robert Kahn updated the Committee on Board member Ben Lindy's request on how to learn faster from other districts. Children's Hospital updated the Committee on a study on how to bring CPS students back into the classroom with less than six feet of social distancing.

Dr. Kahn reported that his research followed the Ohio Department of Health's (ODH) Governor initiative around understanding the safety of students social distancing three to six feet.

Dr. Kahn informed the Committee about several superintendents who influenced the ODH to work with the Ohio State University (OSU) and 10 schools across the state to address the following questions: "how wide of a quarantine is necessary," "does three or four feet make it feasible to go back into the classroom and eliminate working from home," and "would it influence how many students go back into the classroom?" Mason was one of the schools used in the study.

Dr. Kahn informed the Committee that he walked through protocols with the Mason Superintendent the week of December 4, 2020. He reported that the six-week study is moving quickly and enrollment is coming to a close, along with the State doing its data analysis. The State has not provided a specific timeline as to when the report will be available.

Dr. Kahn provided details and reported that the protocol is intense and the Mason Superintendent would like the study to continue after six weeks in order to expand the opportunity for other regions in Ohio.

He also reported that data was studied around quarantining within six feet, close contacts, and kids who should be quarantined but were not at six feet. He reported that rapid antigen testing of all quarantined kids is taking place twice a week. It stated that close contact testing took place twice weekly for two weeks for those who agreed to do the testing. Dr. Kahn did not have the data as of yet from the testing.

Dr. Kahn reported that he will reach out to OSU as to when they will make a statement about the study regarding the feasibility and safety of three versus six feet of social distancing and bringing students back into the classroom four to five days a week.

He also stated and expressed concern about the need to avoid a conflict with the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), ODH and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) work, in contrast with OSU's study; as it is not a CDC study.

The Committee discussed the need for "someone" reputable to own the study, put their name by it, and "stamp it" to confirm the safety of three feet versus six feet of social distancing.

Dr. Kahn stated that kids have not been antigen tested.

Mr. Lindy posed the following questions to the Committee: How are other school districts open? What are they doing to open? Can CPS follow their protocols depending on what they are in if they work?

Committee member Bolton expressed the need for safety, lack of staff, and offering in person and remote learning in the Spring of 2021.

Mr. Lindy expressed concern about Walnut Hills students being all remote and if there is a contingency plan? Why is CPS not doing more testing with kids? Is there a location to do the testing?

Dr. Kahn reported that he will bring a team together to determine if frequent testing is conceivable for CPS. Cost and implementation of testing are factors that play a crucial role. He also reiterated that testing is not enough and expressed concern about the frequency of testing students twice weekly.

Dr. Kahn informed the Committee that he spoke with the Rockefeller Foundation and leaders across the country regarding the next phase or possibility for testing of students in the schools. He reported that there was 'a bright spot' in Colorado for frequent saliva testing in the schools.

He also reported that the Rand Corporation is interviewing school districts who have "bright spots" in order to put them all in a report.

Committee member Lindy asked why can't CPS do testing. Committee member Bolton reported that testing would be costly and that parents may not sign off on the testing.

She also reported that CPS has been focused on safety and how to adjust instructional models since March 2020. Ms. Bolton suggested perhaps it's now time to change the paradigm and that maybe CPS should now, as we close the year and begin planning for August 2021, ask the question—*What will it take in protocols and financial support and personnel numbers and testing to prioritize return to in-person instruction, making remote a secondary choice.*

She also asked what CPS would really have to do to open in August 2021, and avoid going into a third year without having students in the classrooms.

Superintendent Mitchell reported that she spoke with Dr. Kahn about the less than six feet, from the ODH’s perspective. The ODH advised her that they will not sign off on a less than six feet of social distancing unless it comes from the CDC.

Mr. Kahn reported that vaccine studies are being done with hopes of getting teens vaccinated in order to get them back in the classrooms in the fall.

**Distributing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (funded) to Families**

Ms. Trimble-Oliver update the Committee on Committee member Lindy’s ask about PPE that is donated to the District and being provided to CPS families.

She stated that Mr. Lindy put her in touch with Dr. Phillip K. Lichenstein, Associate Medical Director of the Children’s Home.

Mr. Lindy reported that Dr. Lichenstein reached out to him with the idea of providing masks to CPS families. He stated that the Children’s Home may have funding for the purchase of the PPE in order to provide them free to the families.

Ms. Trimble-Oliver reported that this could possibly occur through the District’s meal distribution process.

Ms. Trimble-Oliver stated that the District would be interested in the donation for CPS families.

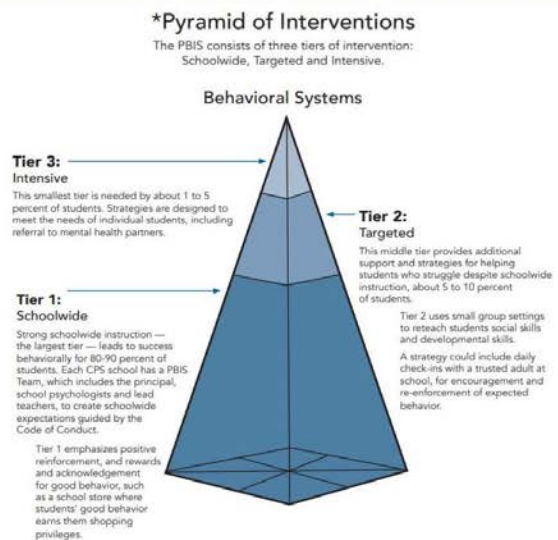
**Student Safety on Buses**

Loren Johnson, Director of Transportation, updated the Committee on how Positive Behavior Intervention Supports is used for bus behavior and safety. He updated

# CROSS COLLABORATION

**Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS).**

- PBIS is a broad range of systemic and individualized strategies for achieving important social and learning outcomes in school communities while preventing problem behavior.
- The key attributes of PBIS include:
  - ◆ PREVENTIVE ACTIVITIES;
  - ◆ DATA-BASED DECISION MAKING;
  - ◆ PROBLEM SOLVING ORIENTATION.
- CPS ACCESS Network of transportation service providers have incorporated these straggies into the standard operating procedures to create effective student management procedures.



PBIS and Transportation

<b>PBIS Component</b>	<b>On the Bus</b>
3-5 Behavioral Expectations	Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe
Systematic Instruction of Behavior	Teach expected behaviors at the beginning of the year and review regularly
Clear Routines and Procedures	Enforce consistent procedures for entering the bus, sitting at a seat, and leaving the bus
Reinforcement of Desired Behaviors	High-five, pat on the back, verbal praise Build relationships!
Correction of Behavioral Errors	Use a positive, firm voice. Do not single out a child whenever possible. Know who to contact for support

PBIS Bus Riding Procedures

- Be Safe:** Always follow directions of the bus driver. Report any unsafe activities.
- Be Respectful:** Keep hands, feet and belongings to yourself and inside the bus.  
Use kind words and actions to driver and other riders.
- Be Responsible:** Keep the bus clean.  
Be prepared to enter and exit the bus promptly.

The Importance of Language

- Be aware of your non-verbal body language
- The Golden Rule
- Keep in mind a child’s developmental level
- Traveling to school is a part of the learning process
- 5:1 positive to negative interaction ratio
- Sandwich error correction

**Bully Prevention Measures at CPS**

What is bullying?  
Bullying behavior when someone REPEATEDLY AND ON PURPOSE SAYS OR DOES MEAN OR HURTFUL THINGS TO ANOTHER PERSON WHO HAS A HARD TIME DEFENDING HIMSELF OR HERSELF.

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING**

**How to Report Bullying**

- Bully Notification Button on the CPS Website
- Bully Prevention School Social Worker, Meg Burrows at 513-363-0551
- Reach out to the building administrator

Data Based Decisions

1. Approximately 199 Incidents have been reported this SY20/21.
  - a. 29-CPS Schools

- b. 111-CPS Auxiliary/Partnered Sites
  - c. 59-Non CPS Schools
2. Approximately 25 percent of the incidents reported were related to new COVID standards adopted on Transportation i.e. face mask.

Process of Support

1. Transportation Personnel engages in positive interaction with students.
2. Student Displays behavior and/or incident occurs on vehicle.
3. Transportation personnel identifies area of concern with student and communicates with three (3) positive prompts to correct the issue.
4. Transportation personnel will submit a referral into the Student Conduct System ONLY if the student is not successfully redirected.
5. School administrators receive the referral and will address the student’s behavior according to the District’s discipline guidelines.

Assistant Superintendent Bunte will follow-up on Committee member Lindy’s report about an incident on the bus that was brought to his attention by a parent. She will also look into bus behavior and harassment of minority students.

Committee member Bolton recommended that bus monitors ride buses with elementary students. She also inquired if Professional Development takes place with vendors. Mr. Johnson will provide the Committee the Metro Protocols as CPS does not and has not trained the Metro employees

Emergency Communication

Krista Boyle, Chief Strategic Engagement Communications Officer, informed the Committee about a school safety app. The app “[Prepared](#)” is a comprehensive emergency communication platform suitable for K-12 schools. It was developed by Yale University students and alumni to combat school shootings and ultimately save lives.

Committee member Bolton inquired as to or how is this app different than the services we already have provided by local vendors. It seems too early in the process to be thinking about an RFP. Superintendent Mitchell advised that Ms. Boyle consult with General Counsel and Security before proceeding.

Ms. Boyle will update General Counsel and Security about the app.

Other Business

The Committee revisited conversation about level 40 of community spread per 100,000 people. This number also dictates that community health is not stable. Mrs. Mitchell reported that this number revealed stress on the staff not being able to come into work.

Committee Chair Bolton advised to think about ways of returning seventh and eighth grade students back to school at Walnut Hills. Superintendent Mitchell reported that getting students back into the classroom faster centers around the following components:

1. Community Health Data
2. Six Feet of Social Distancing
3. Number of Days of Quarantine
4. Vaccine

Mrs. Mitchell reported that she engaged the African-American community regarding issues that may be keeping students from coming to school. Face-to-face instruction is not their number one priority, but the health and safety of their families and the economics of people struggling financially.

Some students work during the day to help take care of their families and then do their work on Schoology at night.

Superintendent Mitchell stated the meeting also revealed that the African-American community values education, but are literally trying to survive.

**ACTION:** The Superintendent will update the Committee at the Board's Work Session, Saturday, January 16, 2021, on: community data, social distancing, quarantine guidelines, any movement on staff members being deemed essential workers to receive the vaccine, and a Human Resource update on recruitment of substitute teachers.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

**Health and Safety Committee**

Melanie Bates, Chair, *absent*  
Eve Bolton  
Ben Lindy

**Staff Liaisons**

Laura Mitchell, Superintendent  
Susan Bunte, Assistant Superintendent  
Sarah Trimble-Oliver, Chief Strategy Officer