



February 8

2021

REPORT OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Health and Safety Committee (HSC) met on Monday, January 25, 2021 at 4:00 PM via the Blue Jeans Video Conferencing Tool.

The public viewed the meeting via Video Conference.

ATTENDEES

Health and Safety Committee Members

Chairperson Melanie Bates, Pamela Bowers, Ryan Messer

Board Members

Carolyn Jones, Board President

Administration/Staff

Laura Mitchell, Superintendent; Robin Brandon, Director of Facilities; Susan Bunte, Assistant Superintendent; Loren Johnson, Director of Transportation; Sarah Trimble-Oliver, Chief Strategy Officer

Cincinnati Children's Hospital

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

Cincinnati Health Department

Maryse Amin, PhD, Supervising Epidemiologist

Election of Committee Chair

Committee member Bowers nominated Melanie Bates to serve another term as Committee Chair, and Committee member Messer seconded the motion. The Committee agreed with the recommendation. Ms. Bates accepted the nomination and was elected Chair of the Committee for year 2021.

Chairperson Bates reported that the Committee is meeting virtually due to the audio, as well as media being present and to inform the community about the start of vaccinations being administered to staff the week of January 25, 2021.

Approval of 2021 Meeting Schedule

The Committee agreed to conduct their meetings at 4:00 pm on the last Monday Board meeting of each month, before Executive Session.

Approval of 2021 Committee Workplan

Ms. Bates advised the Committee to review the workplan and submit recommendations to the document at the February 22, 2021 Health and Safety Committee meeting.

Safe School Water

Ms. Bates reported that a Committee member from the Ohio Sierra Club provided her with information regarding a lead crisis in Flint, Michigan, and asked if the Health and Safety Committee would discuss if lead is a risk in CPS school buildings.

Sarah Trimble Oliver, Chief Operation Officer discussed her following *Safe School Water* Board Brief with the Committee.

In Spring 2016, CPS began discussions with the Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) to help identify any emerging issues related to water quality and specifically lead content. Lead in water is a problem typically associated with older, aging pipes and faucets. Due to the age of our buildings; all being new or newly renovated; GCWW was not concerned about lead in our water system. Despite that, our interest to ensure the utmost safety for our students, staff and visitors, CPS' Office of Environmental Health and Safety worked with the Cincinnati Health Department (CHD) and GCWW to develop a plan to take comprehensive water samples in our buildings. During the next 3 years, starting with elementary schools in our oldest buildings, over 5000 water samples were taken. Any faucet with lead limits at or above the EPA's action levels (15 ppb) would be addressed. Less than 1% of sinks were found to be at or above the EPA limit. That location was removed and replaced.

-GCWW has confirmed that connections from the City main are lead free.

-All drinking fountains were addressed in the early 1990s and all lead was mitigated.

-Our plumbers are committed to water quality and operate within the code requirements including the use of only lead-free products including solder.

Recent published information from the Ohio EPA and Health Department raised concern about buildings that are vacant or have a significant decrease in use. Although teaching staff and students were not present in our schools in spring of 2020; Facilities and Dining Services had staff working in the buildings and at no time did we cease use of water. Early April, our plumbing staff began standard flushing procedures. Starting with the point farthest from the water main; faucets are turned on for 15-60 minutes to run freely; working our way through the building until we reach the room closest to the water service connection. All toilets are flushed to confirm proper operation. All CPS buildings have been flushed. None of our buildings have closed loop or recirculating water systems. In summary, CPS is following all of the applicable recent recommendations for unoccupied or partially occupied buildings from the Ohio Department of Health.

Facilities Director Robin Brandon, as it relates to the Ohio EPA and the Ohio Health Department's concern about vacant buildings or a significant decrease in use, reiterated that Facilities staff and Student Dining staff were in the buildings and at no time was there a cease of using water in the buildings.

She also reported in April that a standard, routinely procedural flush-out was done in all of the buildings.

Ms. Brandon reiterated the work that CPS' Office of Environmental Health and Safety and CHD did to develop a plan to take comprehensive water samples in CPS buildings. Less than 1 percent of sinks were found to be at or above the EPA limit.

Ms. Brandon updated the Committee about improvements in the air filtration systems within the buildings. She reported that filters have been upgraded to MERV-10 filters, which is the highest level filter and air is flushed out for two hours every morning.

Other Business

CPS Government Liaisons

Chairperson Bates reported that she and Budget, Finance and Growth Committee Chairperson Eve Bolton agreed to assign legislative liaisons Eric Kearney and George Glover to the Health and Safety Committee due to much legislation that will be around health and safety due to COVID-19.

The Liaisons currently provide legislative reporting for the Budget, Finance and Growth Committee.

ACTION: The HSC will recommend to the Board revision of Board Bylaws to move the Liaisons from the Budget, Finance and Growth Committee to the Health and Safety Committee at the February 8, 2021 Regular Business meeting.

CPS Vaccination Schedule

Superintendent Mitchell reported that communication is going out to staff about the vaccination plan.

Assistant Superintendent Susan Bunte updated the Committee about the Plan in the following areas:

- Employee Considerations
Cincinnati Health Department (CHD) Providing Vaccinations
Starting date January 28, runs for ~8 weeks
CPS staff notified starting Jan 26 to sign up using an online registration link
Staff Hotline Available
- Site Staffing and Materials
CHD providing all resources for distribution of vaccine
- General Process Flow
Flow of how the site will be ran
- Needs and Notes
What is still needed
- Budget
Total anticipated budget \$45,657.00

Staff will receive vaccinations in the following groupings which mirror the CPS phased return to in-person school:

Schedule below may change without notice

- i. Group A (for week 1; January 28 week)
- ii. Group B (for week 2: Feb 4)
- iii. Group B & C (for week 3: Feb11)

Group A (2,049) - Preschool teachers, preschool paras, specialized classroom teachers, specialized classroom paras, 1:1 paras for SWDs, related service providers (OT/PT/SLPs), K-3 teachers, K-3 paras, Building Engineers, Custodians, Nap Aids
(On-Call Group: Building Administrators and Food Service Staff)

Group B (2,200) - Remaining Elementary building staff and High School staff, including food service, school psychs, paraprofessionals and security
(On-Call Group: Ed Center/Iowa)

Group C (2,200) - Remaining building staff, Ed Center, Iowa, Bus Drivers
(On-Call Group: those who have not yet been vaccinated - missed earlier appointments)

A copy of the full detailed Plan is available upon request and in the Board office.

Ms. Bunte reported that approximately 2,000 CPS employees are scheduled to be vaccinated with the Pfizer vaccine the week of January 25, 2021—beginning January 28, 2021, by the CHD and Saturday, January 28, 2021, at the Duke Energy Convention Center.

Superintendent Mitchell reported that Governor DeWine required districts to have a plan in place on how they would administer the vaccine.

Mrs. Mitchell contacted the Governor to inform him that CPS had a plan and ready to implement it. This was the catalyst in the Governor providing CPS with enough vaccine for the District.

Superintendent Mitchell also reported that CPS is the first to get the vaccine due to logistics being in place and partnerships with health care professionals that are providing assistance.

Superintendent Mitchell thanked her staff for the outstanding work in putting the plan together.

All members of the HSC gave Mrs. Mitchell and her Performance Leadership Team “grand” thanks for all of the great work that she and her Performance Leadership Team have done to ensure the safety of staff.

Review of Current COVID-19 Research Data – Community Health Data Presentation

Dr. Maryse Amin, Cincinnati Health Department

Dr. Robert Kahn, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital

Dr.Kahn updated the Committee on the following COVID measures that reflect the current science about how to inform school planning. The measures are offered as a tool to assist school leaders as they consider choices about on-site, hybrid, and remote learning models for their student populations.

The following measures are early indicators to assist in real-time decision making about remote, hybrid, and in-person learning.

School Measures

Number of school cases and quarantines among staff and students

- Monitor closely for evidence of in-school transmission

Assess adequacy of staffing levels for safe and effective operations

Consistent adherence to protective bundle measures

Community Measures:

Rate of new COVID cases in the community and direction of trend

Community Performance Indicators to demonstrate how community systems are coping

The existing Ohio Public Health Advisory System (OPHAS) contains valuable community metrics, and schools may also use this to guide decisions. In addition, OPHAS may be used to guide government decisions or mandates around schools. But several indicators (outpatient visits, ED visits, hospital admissions, ICU occupancy) lag days or weeks behind new infections.

The suggested measures above focus on current school, state and incident infection as real-time indicators.

Dr. Amin updated the Committee on the following information contained in her report.

CPS COVID-19 Confirmed Staff and Student Cases (Since May 2020)

Confirmed Student Cases - 325

(Students Tested – 325)

Confirmed Staff Cases – 511

Detected In-School Transmission – 6

Community Trends

City of Cincinnati – 48 Daily New Cases per 100,000 (As of January 22, 2021)

Hamilton County – 54 Daily New Cases per 100,000 (As of January 18, 2021)

Positivity Rates as of January 18, 2021 – Hamilton County – 16.3%; City of Cincinnati – 12.4%

Average Length from Date Tested to Results as of January 22, 2021 – 2 Days

Hamilton County School Districts as of January 21, 2020 – See report

A copy of the full Community Health Data Report is available upon request in the Board office.

Superintendent Mitchell reported that Hamilton County has received a grant and now able to offer rapid testing for adults in the schools as well as the vaccine.

Dr. Kahn reported that literature is showing that six feet or more of distancing is safer than three to six feet and three to six feet is safer than less than three feet. He also reported that this is a continuum of risk.

Dr. Amin agreed that six feet is the safer route.

Dr. Kahn will recommend a vaccine expert to provide the Committee with data related to what is the “window” in getting the second shot.

Dr. Amin reported that only 18 percent of positive COVID cases came from multi-unit housing. She stated that the majority of positive cases came from single-unit housing.

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 pm.

Health and Safety Committee

Melanie Bates, Chairperson

Pamela Bowers

Ryan Messer

Staff Liaisons

Laura Mitchell, Superintendent

Susan Bunte, Assistant Superintendent

Sarah Trimble-Oliver, Chief Strategy Officer