



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Committee of the Whole met on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at 4:00 PM in the Banquet Room, Cincinnati Public Schools Education Center, 2651 Burnet Ave, 45219.

The public viewed the meeting via Video Conference.

Health and Safety

Sarah Trimble-Oliver, Chief Strategy Officer

Vision Zero/Safe Routes to School

Ms. Trimble-Oliver reported that the goal of Vision Zero and the Safe Routes to School program is to eliminate all serious and fatal pedestrian accidents.

The program also emphasizes improvements in school zones, recreation areas, neighborhood business districts, and known high-volume pedestrian crash corridors. The program will also pilot several new types of infrastructure.

Schools and Recreation Areas

Outlined below are more details about the program for 2020/2021.

Targeting schools, recreation centers, and recreation areas such as ballfields and playgrounds ensures that the City of Cincinnati is doing its best to create and maintain safe travel routes for children and young people.

The City of Cincinnati's Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) is working with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) to develop an updated Safe Routes to School Plan that will ensure both the City of Cincinnati and CPS are eligible to apply for federal and state Safe Routes to School funding beginning in 2021.

Throughout 2020 and 2021, DOTE will review areas near schools and recreation areas to determine the need for possible safety improvements. Some possible improvements include:

- New marked crosswalks
- Restriped crosswalks
- Converting existing longitudinal crosswalks to high visibility "zebra" crosswalks
- Sidewalk bump outs to increase visibility and shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians
- Advanced warning signage where the speed limit drops from 35mph to 20mph in school zones
- Updated school zone signage
- Updated crosswalk signage
- School zone flashers
- Street lighting

The DOTE will also pilot three new types of infrastructure near schools and recreation areas.

Raised crosswalks – Raised crosswalks increase visibility of pedestrians in the street, and function as a low-speed road hump to calm traffic.

Reflective blades on signposts – 5-foot-long reflective blades will be added to crosswalk signage posts to draw further attention to the crosswalks.

The LightPath System - The LightPath system projects light across a crosswalk when triggered by a pedestrian, ensuring the pedestrians are highly visible to drivers in the early morning and late evening hours.

Ms. Trimble-Oliver reported that the District is eligible for the grant for five years.

The Committee had conversation in the areas of infrastructure versus non-infrastructure, the grant not being used to pay for crossing guards, crossing guards being CPS employees, an assessment or inventory of sidewalks, flashing lights, and the District’s “demands” of pedestrian safety projects.

The group also discussed making the City aware of what SORTA is asking of the Board and CPS families in terms of infrastructure needed to keep students safe.

Ms. Trimble-Oliver reported that Melissa McVay, Senior City Planner for the City of Cincinnati and Coordinator for the Vision Zero Program, will do a presentation on all of the Vision Zero projects at the Board’s Committee of the Whole meeting on October 6, 2021.

More information about the plan can be located on the City of Cincinnati’s website. Please click [The Plan](#) to view the report.

Transportation Update

Sarah Trimble-Oliver, Chief Strategy Officer

Ms. Trimble-Oliver updated the Committee on the following topics contained in her presentation.

- Yellow Bus On time Performance
- Transportation Customer Service
- Metro Service Change
- Metro Data
 - Metro Student Experience
 - Student School (760 Responses)
 - Student Zip code (763 Responses)
 - Student Grade (780 Responses)
 - Challenges with Metro route to or from school

Ms. Trimble-Oliver informed the Committee about the following items that she is working on:

- Building out Metro Data Dashboard with metrics that were requested
- Completing the Yellow Bus Analysis
- Request for Proposals for Yellow Bus for next school year – Target is end of September 21, 2021
- Continue On Time Performance Quality Improvement Project
- Continue Call Center Improvement Project

- Transportation Team Staffing
- Leadership Resources.

Transportation Policies

Dan Hoying, General Counsel

Mr. Hoying reported that an assignment was made at the Policy and Equity Committee meeting on August 23, 2021 for him to review *Policy 8600.01 – Supervision of Transported Students* and *Policy 8600.02 – Transportation of Students* and update the Board at the Committee of the Whole meeting on September 1, 2021.

Mr. Hoying reviewed the policies with the group. It was stated that the Board has been put in a position of not being able to comply with the District’s own policy, and that there is now an increased risk to CPS students.

Ms. Trimble-Oliver reported that addendums to the Metro contract are done on a yearly basis. Mr. Hoying stated that those addendums are approved by the Board.

The Committee had discussions about the number of bus passes, the number of calls received from parents and the capacity and technology to address those calls, the number of bus riders before COVID-19 and students experiences.

The group also discussed obtaining data on on-time buses, the number of calls answered, and the possibility of hiring additional employees to answer calls.

ACTION: The Administration will provide a weekly update on the requested data regarding buses being on time, the number of calls answered, distribution data, and address the questions Board member Lindy received from parents.

Since students have been responsive and flexible in dealing with COVID-19 and changes to transportation, the Committee encouraged that high school administration find a way to incentivize students via Positive School Culture.

The Committee discussed preparing a memo about the joint meeting that took place on August 30, 2021 to discuss transporting children to school. The meeting was with City Council’s Budget and Finance Committee, CPS Board members, and SORTA. Councilman David Mann is Chair of the Committee.

The transportation topic will be on Mr. Mann’s agenda in four weeks. The conversation will focus on CPS and SORTA making efforts to find more solutions.

The Committee expressed the need to know if Metro’s current transportation plan for the District will stay the same, or will the original routes be reinstated.

A copy of the presentations is available upon request and in the Board office.

Lottery Process

Shauna Murphy, Assistant Superintendent; Leslie Bryant, Manager, Customer Help Center

Ms. Murphy and Ms. Bryant updated the Committee on CPS’ Early Montessori Application. The presentation included the following elements.

What is the CPS Early Montessori Application?

The CPS Early Montessori Application is an opportunity for current in-district CPS 6th grade Montessori students to continue in the same course of study at one of CPS' Montessori high schools.

Why? To improve the opportunity for CPS students to continue their Montessori same course of study education from elementary school through high school.

When? September 21 – October 29, 2021

How?

- CPS Website
 - Download, print and submit
- Grab a printed application from the following locations:
 - The Customer Care Center
 - Clark Montessori High School
 - James N. Gamble Montessori High School

How Can I Learn More?

- CPS Website
- Clark and Gamble High School webpages
- New! CPS Montessori Guide
- Postcard to be backpacked home with students
- Robocall, Email and Social Media
- Contacting the Customer Care Center, Clark or Gamble High School

The application was created to offer current in-district CPS Montessori grade 6 students an early opportunity seat at a CPS Montessori High School.

Benefits

- Provides an early application period (before the general CPS All lottery).
- Gives early notification to families, offering peace of mind - one less thing for our families to be concerned about.

Who Should Apply?

Currently enrolled in-district CPS grade 6 Montessori students who desire to continue the same course of study in high school.

CPS Montessori Elementary Schools:

- Dater Montessori School
- James N. Gamble Montessori Elementary School
- North Avondale Montessori School
- Parker Woods Montessori School
- Pleasant Ridge Montessori School
- Sands Montessori School
- *In-District grade 6 CPS Montessori students who transferred to Cincinnati Digital Academy (CDA) due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

When Should I Apply? – CPS Early Montessori Application Schedule

Opens – September 21, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.

Closes – October 29, 2021 @ 11:59 p.m.

Notification of lottery results – November 30, 2021

****Deadline for parents/guardians to opt-out or update their demographic information*** December 17, 2021

Please note: Changes to demographic information can be updated throughout the year, online or in-person.

How Can I Apply

- CPS Website
 - Download, print and submit
 - Email cpshelp@cpsboe.k12.oh.us
 - Deliver to Clark, Gamble, CPS Customer Care Center’s dropbox or lobby
- Grab a printed application from the following locations:
 - The Customer Care Center
 - Clark Montessori High School
 - James N. Gamble Montessori High School

Please note: Applications from students who are not in-district residents and are not currently enrolled in grade 6 at a CPS Montessori school will not be considered during this application process. In-District students who do not fall in this category can apply during the CPS Lottery opening December 7, 2021. Students who reside out of district can apply during the month of May.

How will I know the status of my child’s application?

CPS will contact you using the information in the Early Montessori application for your child.

CPS will begin sharing the results on November 30, 2021

- Check your email
- Check your US Postal mailbox
- Log into PowerSchool
- Email or call the
 - Customer Care Center
 - Clark Montessori High School
 - James N. Gamble Montessori High School

Through this process your child will be automatically enrolled in Clark or Gamble High School.

- Follow the steps outlined in the communication
- Update demographic information
 - Online - CPS Online Registration
 - In-Person - Complete and submit a Student Change of Information form

CPS Application and Lottery Schedule

CPS Early Montessori Application and Lottery	September 21, 2021 – October 29, 2021
CPS Sibling Application	September 21, 2021 – October 29, 2021
CPS Lotteries – Magnet, High School and Out of Neighborhood (Area)	December 7, 2021 9:00 a.m. – March 11, 2022
CPS East/West Application	April 12 – 29, 2022
CPS InterDistrict Open Enrollment Lottery	May 1 – 31, 2022

Interim Superintendent Amat reiterated the Board’s interest to have Montessori learning for the east and west sides of town. She will have a campaign to get the word out to the community.

Ms. Amat will do an assessment to get public input to show what the plan would look like and present the program at a public Board meeting.

Ohio Department of Education Report

Interim Superintendent, Tianay Amat

Ms. Amat reported that the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) plans to release information on the pandemic's impact on students. The report will include information about chronic absenteeism and student participation and performance on state assessments. The report will also highlight that urban schools were disproportionately impacted.

The following goals listed in the ODE report are to:

- Help policymakers, community organizations, educators and other members of the public understand the pandemic's significant impact on students, and
- Encourage policymakers and educators to use all resources available to address the challenges.

Ms. Amat updated the Committee on (1) Chronic Absenteeism (2) Student Participation on State Assessment and (Student Achievement)

She updated the Committee with the following data and information.

Chronic Absenteeism

CPS 2018-2019 School Year (last complete pre-pandemic year)	CPS 2020-2021	Urban 8 Average 2020-2021
37%	46.4% (9 percentage point increase)	63%

- Chronic absenteeism includes only enrolled students
- Chronic absenteeism: defined by ODE as the percentage of students in a school or district with an individual absence rate at least 10%
 - Excused or unexcused
 - Equates to 18 school days
- 14 day quarantine last school year
 - Automatically missing 10 school days
- CPS increase slightly above state average and better than Urban 8
 - State overall saw a 7 percentage point increase from 16.7% to 24%
 - CPS 9 percentage point increase from 37% to 46.4%

Chronic Absenteeism: What CPS is Doing

Updated Quarantine Policy:

- Last year required quarantine at home
- This year, mirrors updated guidance
 - Allows asymptomatic school-related close contacts to quarantine in the classroom and attend school

Ongoing Focus on Attendance:

- 71.5 School Social Workers (SSW)
 - SSWs write attendance plans (AIPs), meet with families, conduct home visits, and make referrals to help families reduce barriers
- 19 Attendance Support Specialists are trained and support attendance at schools
 - Attendance Support Specialists monitor student attendance in 38 schools (based on attendance data), make parent contact and ensure consistency with state guidance

State Assessment Participation and Performance

Context:

- Prioritized participation

- Fall and spring testing windows both began as we were shifting learning models
 - 3rd Grade Fall Ohio State Test began October 21
 - CPS shifted from distance to blended learning October 12
 - Spring Ohio State and End of Course tests began March 31
 - Shifted from blended to 5 days in person March 31
- Note: CPS has not received final data from ODE, so data in this presentation should be considered preliminary

A copy of the full presentation containing CPS data in the following areas is available upon request and in the Board office.

- State Assessment Participation
 - Third Grade English Language Arts (ELA) Proficiency Rates 2018, 2019, 2021
- State Assessment Performance
 - ELA Proficiency Grades 5-8
 - Mathematics Proficiency Grades 5-8
 - End of Course Proficiency Rates 2018, 2019, 2021

State Assessment Performance – What CPS is Doing

Accelerating learning!

Summer Scholars – June academic and enrichment program available to all students

Established academic “must haves” with teachers and principals for 21-22 school year

- Relationships
- Implement adopted curriculum in 2 week cycles of accelerated learning, with temperature checks
- Students access on Schoology (Learning outcomes, materials, assignments, due dates)
- Recurring data meetings

Established supports

- Academic Matrix
- Directors of School Leadership
- Professional Development, Modeling and Coaching
- Reading and Math Specialists

The Committee advised the Administration to look at longer terms of chronic absenteeism for the District and compare the data to other school districts and to look at elementary and high school data.

ACTION: The Board assigned the Policy and Equity Committee to review policies related to COVID-19 quarantines and for the Administration to present protocol regarding COVID-19 diagnoses.

Vice President Messer motioned to recess into Executive Session at 4:01 p.m. to discuss Employment of a Public Employee or Official. Board member Ben Lindy seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.