Update on Reopening Schools

School Board Action Meeting

Monday, July 20, 2020

Presented by

Scott T. Eveslage, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Meeting Agenda

• Purpose
  • Timeline Overview
  • Our Lens and Guiding Principles
  • Guidance
  • Planning Scenarios
  • Survey Results
  • Committee Recommendations
  • Next Steps
Meeting Purpose

- Present the status on the plan to reopen schools
- Be transparent on the progress made and the questions that remain unanswered
- Ensure clarity on the mechanisms in place to gather feedback
- Clarify decision-making timeline
Meeting Agenda

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• Next Steps
# Timeline Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>Surveyed families, students, and staff on Reopening Scenarios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>Formalized process to make an informed reopening recommendation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Established committee infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 13 - 17</td>
<td>Facilitated staff information sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>Presentation on status of the reopening process</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 21 – August 2</td>
<td>Gather community feedback via <a href="mailto:reopening@hatboro-horsham.org">reopening@hatboro-horsham.org</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Survey community and staff on Reopening Scenarios</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Continue clarifying committee recommendations</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 3</td>
<td>Present a Health and Safety Reopening Plan to the Board of School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Directors for approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>Students begin the 2020-21 school year</td>
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</table>
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• **Our Lens and Guiding Principles**
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Our Lens and Guiding Principles

1. **Health & Safety**: Assess the health and safety impact of considerations on students and staff. Consider the continuum of safety for each option.

2. **Equity**: Assess any disparate impact an operation, decision, or action may have on a student or group of students.

3. **Learning**: Accept learning as our fundamental purpose and therefore examine all practices in light of their impact on learning.

4. **Feasibility**: Determine the extent to which a recommendation is feasible, manageable, and fiscally possible.
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Guidance

- Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- American Academy of Pediatricians
- Children’s Hospital of Pennsylvania (CHOP)
- Bucks County Department of Health
- Chester County Department of Health
- Carnegie Mellon
- Mathematica - REL Mid-Atlantic Report
- Johns Hopkins
- SickKids
- U.S. Department of Education
- American Association of School Administrators (AASA)
Guidance

- Montgomery County Department of Health Guidance (released 7/16/20)
- Pennsylvania Department of Health & Pennsylvania Department of Education Joint Guidance (released 7/16/20)
Guidance

• Guidance has evolved over time and has changed rapidly.
• Recommendations have been inconsistent, and in some cases contradictory, especially with social distancing and mask-wearing. Differences exist between the local counties.
• Montgomery County and PA Department of Health recommend 6 feet of social distancing throughout the day to the maximum extent feasible.
Guidance

• Local, State, and National data trends on COVID-19 are examined regularly and guide decision-making.

  • [Johns Hopkins Dashboard](#)
  • [PA Department of Health Dashboard](#)
**Guidance:** John Hopkins Dashboard (Monday 7/20/20)

[Image of COVID-19 Status Report]

- **Montgomery, Pennsylvania**
- **HEALTHCARE FACTS**
  - Number of Staffed Beds: 3,023
  - Number of Licensed Beds: 3,200
  - Number of ICU Beds: 289
  - People in Poverty (ACS): 47,317
  - Total Population (ACS): 821,301
  - Population Aged 65+ (ACS): 139,629
  - New Cases Since Previous Day: 57
  - County Case Rate Per 100,000 Population: 1,104
  - County Fatality Rate: 9.15

- **POPULATION RACE, ETHNICITY AND AGE**
  - Race: White, Black, Asian
  - Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino, Non-Hispanic
  - Age Groups: Under 18, Age 19-24, Age 26-34, Age 35-44, Age 45-54, Age 55-64, Over 75

- **POLICIES AND CASES**
  - COUNTY CASE DATA
    - Confirmed Cases: 9,148
    - Deaths: 637
    - Pennsylvania State Statistics
      - Total Confirmed: 105,384
      - Deaths: 7,022
      - Fatality Rate: 6.66%
      - Tested: 1,027,379

For more information about this infographic, please visit the U.S. Map website.
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Planning Scenarios: State Guidance

**Red**

Schools remain closed for in-person instruction and all instruction must be provided via remote learning. Provision for student services such as school meal programs will continue.

**Yellow**

Schools may provide in-person instruction after developing a written Health and Safety Plan, which includes attention to a variety of health and safety measures including, but not limited to, attendance, screening, protective equipment, social distancing, and cleaning. Both Yellow and Green Plans cover the same topics, but differ in what MUST, SHOULD, or MAY be included.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Yellow Phase</th>
<th>Green Phase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pandemic Coordinator/Team</td>
<td>Identification of a “pandemic coordinator” and/or “pandemic team” with defined roles and responsibilities for health and safety preparedness and response planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Risk Staff/Students</td>
<td>Steps to protect children and staff at higher risk for severe illness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring Symptoms/Exposure</td>
<td>Processes for monitoring students and staff for symptoms and history of exposure</td>
<td>Steps to take in relation to isolation or quarantine when a staff member, child, or visitor becomes sick or demonstrates a history of exposure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff/Student Presents with Illness or Exposure</td>
<td>Steps to take in relation to isolation or quarantine when a staff member, child, or visitor becomes sick or demonstrates a history of exposure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Return to Work/School</td>
<td>Guidelines for when an isolated or quarantined staff member, child, or visitor may return to school</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene Practices</td>
<td>Guidelines for hygiene practices for students and staff which include the manner and frequency of hand-washing and other best practices</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face Coverings – Staff</td>
<td>Guidelines on the use of face coverings (masks or face shields) by all staff</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face Coverings – Students</td>
<td>Guidelines on the use of face coverings (masks or face shields) for older students, as appropriate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Posting of Signs Promoting Protective Measures</td>
<td>Expectations for the posting of signs in highly visible locations, that promote everyday protective measures, and how to stop the spread of germs</td>
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<td>Procedures for Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting &amp; Ventilating</td>
<td>Procedures for cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilating learning spaces, surfaces, and any other areas used by students (i.e., restrooms, drinking fountains, hallways, and transportation)</td>
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<td>Social Distancing</td>
<td>Protocols for classroom/learning space occupancy that allow for 6 feet of separation among students and staff throughout the day to the maximum extent feasible</td>
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<td>Cafeteria/Other Congregate Settings</td>
<td>Procedures for restricting the use of cafeterias and other congregate settings, and serving meals in alternate settings such as classrooms</td>
<td>Procedures for the safe use of cafeterias and other congregate settings</td>
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<td>Sporting Activities</td>
<td>Protocols for sporting activities consistent with the CDC Considerations for Youth Sports for recess, and physical education classes (guidance for organized school sports will be published separately)</td>
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<td>Staff Training</td>
<td>Schedules for training all faculty and staff on the implementation of the Health and Safety Plans before providing services to students</td>
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<td>Communication with Families</td>
<td>System for ensuring ongoing communication with families around the elements of the local Health and Safety Plan including ways that families can practice safe hygiene in the home.</td>
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In Hatboro-Horsham, we are planning for each of these topics in each phase.
Planning Scenarios – HHSD Scenarios

State-Mandated: Schools remain closed for in-person instruction and all instruction must be provided via remote learning

Scenario #1: All instruction is provided via remote learning
Scenario #2: A Hybrid model is adopted to ensure buildings are occupied at approximately 50% at any one time
Scenario #3: Students return fully to school every school day

Option for all families: Maintain HHSD enrollment while joining the District-run cyber program
All planning is occurring under the assumption that we could be in any of these scenarios at various points throughout the school year. We want to have systems in place to move fluidly between the scenarios as seamlessly as possible.
Planning Scenarios – HHSD Scenarios

Yellow

Green

Scenario #1: All instruction is provided via remote learning

Source (Visual): Clark County School District

Monday July 20, 2020
Planning Scenarios – HHSD Scenarios

Yellow

Green

Scenario #2: A Hybrid model is adopted to ensure buildings are occupied at approximately 50% at any one time.
Planning Scenarios – HHSD Scenarios

Scenario #3: Students return fully to school every school day

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Source (Visual): Clark County School District
Planning Scenarios – HHSD Scenarios

Option for all HHSD Families

Maintain HHSD enrollment while joining the *Hatter Academy*, a District-run online program that will be supported by HHSD teachers.
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Survey Results:

**Sample**

Total Response Count

1,459

Responses by Stakeholder Role

- Parent: 1,051
- Staff: 259
- Student: 149

Survey Administered June 24, 2020
Survey Results:

Community Impacts
(Parents only)
Generally, staff were slightly less favorable to in-person instruction (61%) than parents and students (72%, 68%), and slightly more favorable to online/remote instruction (36% staff, 23% parent, 24% student), although the general trend of favoring in-person and hybrid instruction over remote learning was the same for all groups.
Survey Results:

Concerns with Resuming Onsite Learning (all groups)

Which of the following are your biggest concerns related to fully in-person instruction? Please select up to three options.

- School cleanliness to prevent an outbreak: 56%
- Ensuring social distancing guidelines are followed: 54%
- Ensuring students and staff wear face masks: 35%
- Time and resources required to clean schools thoroughly: 32%
- Transportation safety (e.g., ability to maintain social distancing): 18%
- None, I do not have any concerns about in-person instruction: 17%
- Transportation logistics (e.g., ability to get to/from school site): 10%
- Other (please specify): 7%
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Committee Recommendations

Health & Safety

**OBJECTIVE:** To plan and implement a safe, efficient, and equitable return to school.

**SCOPE:** Essential actions to keep staff and students safe and healthy, both physically and mentally.

### Key Recommendations:

- **Establish prevention strategies and practices to prevent spread**
  - Provide specific cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting procedures for each facility
  - Establish screening procedures for parents/guardians before school and for staff at school
  - Determine hand-washing and sanitizing procedures in school for students and staff by level
  - Limit visitors in buildings
  - Require students and staff to stay home if sick; revising attendance procedures
  - Work with Operations to assess spaces where social distancing guidelines can be met and make site-specific recommendations

- **Establish response strategies**
  - Procedures for monitoring staff and students during the day
  - School/nursing responses to potential exposure
  - Establish partnerships and clarify roles with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health in response to active cases, contact tracing, and notifications

- **Establish a plan and professional development suggestions for supporting the social and emotional well-being of students and staff**
Committee Recommendations

Health & Safety

OBJECTIVE: To plan and implement a safe, efficient, and equitable return to school.

SCOPE: Essential actions to keep staff and students safe and healthy, both physically and mentally.

Key Challenges and Unanswered Questions:

- Ensuring safety recommendations are adhered to with fidelity through a range of daily procedures
- Differentiating health and safety needs for unique settings and populations
- Uncertainty around the accessibility of testing
- Clarifying procedures around family and community notification, situations in which testing and quarantining is required, and guidance around decisions to close a building, program, or the district
- Rethinking our typical health and safety procedures (screenings for growth, vision, hearing, scoliosis as well as fire drills and lockdown drills, etc.)
- Adhering to masking directives
- Supporting students social and emotional needs in a virtual environment
Committee Recommendations

OBJECTIVE: To plan and implement a safe, efficient, and equitable return to school.

SCOPE: Essential actions necessary to ensure district and school assets are, and remain, safe for students and staff to inhabit.

Key Recommendations:

- Secure sufficient PPE, cleaning, and sanitizing materials, including Electrostatic Spraying machines, cleaning materials for classrooms, and custodial staff
- Intensify cleaning routines and add custodial staffing
- Add plexiglass dividers in certain areas of the buildings
- Adjust arrival and dismissal procedures, both inside and outside the schools
- Curtail visitor access to the buildings and revise office protocols
- Modify student transit procedures in the hallway to add structures to help socially distance
- Restructure Nurse’s office to ensure space for “isolation” and increased plexiglass and PPE
- Add signage to buildings for communicating health and safety measures
- Implement heat response procedures for specific buildings (e.g. Keith Valley)
- Modify outdoor recess procedures to limit large-group gatherings
- Revise Nutritional Services procedures
  - Increased PPE for staff, ensuring vendors have safety measures in place
  - Limiting menu and grab-and-go options, instituting pre-order options and swipe card for payments
  - Encouraging students to bring their own lunch when possible
  - Spread out eating spaces to the extent possible, including revising lunch time, using classrooms, tents, or other spaces
Committee Recommendations

OBJECTIVE: To plan and implement a safe, efficient, and equitable return to school.

SCOPE: Essential actions necessary to ensure district and school assets are, and remain, safe for students and staff to inhabit.

Operations & Logistics

Key Recommendations:
- Revise Transportation protocols
  - Provide PPE for staff
  - Encourage families to drive students to school when possible
  - Survey families for those willing to opt-out of school transportation
  - Require students from same household to sit together
  - Sanitizing buses, including fogging buses after AM and PM runs, and wiping high-touch areas between schools

Key Challenges:
- Ensuring adequate social distancing through the day-to-day operations of the school day
- Setting up classroom and instructional spaces to meet guidelines
- Managing the unique challenges of every procedure at the district level while adjusting accordingly at each building and facility
Committee Recommendations

**Operations & Logistics**

Hallowell STEM Room (Collaborative Space)

- **Traditional STEM Room set-up**
- **STEM Room with social distancing**
Committee Recommendations

Operations & Logistics

Hallowell Elementary Classroom

Classroom with desks 6 feet apart

Same Classroom with desks 3 feet apart
Committee Recommendations

Operations & Logistics

Blair Mill Elementary Classroom

Classroom with desks 6 feet apart

Classroom with desks 3 feet apart

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Committee Recommendations

Operations & Logistics

Hatboro-Horsham High School Classroom

Classrooms with collaborative spaces and flexible seating will have to be restructured
Committee Recommendations

Operations & Logistics

Hatboro-Horsham High School Classroom

Classrooms with collaborative spaces and flexible seating will have to be restructured.

Monday July 20, 2020
Committee Recommendations

Operations & Logistics

Hatboro-Horsham High School Classroom

Typical science classrooms, in this case housing 24 desks, would not be able to accommodate 24 students and ensure social distancing, even if using the lab tables as desks.
Committee Recommendations

**Instruction**

**OBJECTIVE:** To plan and implement a safe, efficient, and equitable return to school.

**SCOPE:** Essential actions to prepare for the continuation of learning in multiple scenarios; to achieve a comprehensive understanding of students’ academic and social-emotional well-being when they return.

**Key Recommendations:**
- Ensure consistent expectations for housing course content (Canvas, SeeSaw, etc.) by level
- Standardize videoconferencing (Microsoft Teams) and communication platforms
- Clarify expectations for hybrid, in-school, and at-home learning days, including synchronous and asynchronous learning
- Prioritize professional development needs to provide more effective remote instruction and assessment
- Identify and address issues around learning loss. Ensure we are meeting students where they are instructionally
OBJECTIVE: To plan and implement a safe, efficient, and equitable return to school.

SCOPE: Essential actions to prepare for the continuation of learning in multiple scenarios; to achieve a comprehensive understanding of students’ academic and social-emotional well-being when they return.

Key Challenges:
- Effectively and safely delivering comprehensive instruction while maintaining expected social distancing and limiting student group work (unique at each level)
- Improving staff competencies in a range of areas (technology, assessing and instructing in an online environment, etc.)
- Ensuring curricular alignment is in place to assure core essential skills are consistent across the district
- Supporting students with a diverse set of needs, recognizing that some student subgroups may need special scheduling
- Scheduling for unique student programs (e.g. the Eastern Center students)
- Safely delivering programs that involve higher risk activities or hands-on equipment (e.g. chorus, band, Tech Ed)
- Effectively continuing a student’s educational program in the event of a required exclusion
- Assessing staffing and structural implications with each scenario, including the hybrid model and the HHSD Hatter Academy
Committee Recommendations

**Key Recommendations:**
- Ensure every student has a device K-12
  - iPads for grades K-1
  - Laptops for grades 2-12
- Distribute devices in August
- Assess and ensure home internet connectivity for every family
  - Hotspots
  - Comcast Internet Essentials
- Consistent videoconferencing and communication platforms (w/Instructional Committee)
- Minimize shared computing spaces and resources
- Identify and prioritize high-leverage instructional technology tools

**Key Challenges:**
- Ensuring home connection is sufficient in fully accessing instructional technology capabilities
- Maintaining an infrastructure to support hardware and support needs

**OBJECTIVE:** To plan and implement a safe, efficient, and equitable return to school.

**SCOPE:** Essential actions to ensure technology infrastructure, assets, and guidance support an organized transition to various instructional models
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Next Steps and Summary

• Feedback can be shared via reopening@Hatboro-Horsham.org

• Families and staff can expect a survey for feedback, assessing:
  - Interest in our online option for students, the Hatter Academy
  - A Transportation opt-out
  - Preferred Reopening Scenario

• Present a plan for approval at the August 3, 2020 Board meeting

Thank you!