

Red Wing Public Schools
2451 Eagle Ridge Drive
Red Wing, MN 55066



Phone 651.385.4500
Fax 651.385.4510

www.rwps.org

School Board Meeting Agenda Item

Topic: Fall Reopening Plan
Contact(s):
Presenter(s): Karsten Anderson, Superintendent

Nature of Action Requested by Board

Board action
Board information or scheduled report

Background Information

In June, Governor Walz directed public schools in Minnesota to develop plans for three scenarios: in-person learning, hybrid learning (a combination of in-person and distance learning), and distance learning.

Governor Walz recently issued Executive Order 20-82 and the "Safe Learning Plan" regarding school this fall. As outlined in the plan, Red Wing will use county COVID rates to make decisions about when to provide in-person, distance, and/or hybrid learning during the year.

Due to changing circumstances, the following plan is subject to change.

Criteria

When formulating the proposed plans for scenarios and recommendations, the following criteria were paramount:

- Provide a safe environment for all students;
- Provide all students with the choice to complete high quality online learning throughout the year;
- Provide all K-4 students with in-person learning each day if enough staff members are available; and
- Provide consistent and continuous learning regardless of the location of learning.

Summary of General Plans for Each Scenario for Students in Grades K-4

- In-Person Learning:

When spaces are smaller, classes of 22-26 will be split into two rooms each day. In one room, a licensed teacher will provide instruction. Lessons will be digitally broadcast to students at home and into the second room, which will be supervised by a specialist or other adult. Adults will rotate between rooms during each day or on alternating days. New learning will be provided each day.

When spaces are large enough, classes of 22-26 will be in one room, generally with a licensed teacher and classroom paraprofessional. Lessons will be digitally broadcast to students at home. New learning will be provided each day.
- Hybrid Learning: Same as in-person learning.
- Distance Learning: Teachers will provide lessons and communicate directly with students at least four days each week.

Summary of General Plans for Each Scenario in Grades 5-12

- In-Person Learning: All students report to school and following daily schedule.
- Hybrid Learning:

Students will be divided into two cohorts. Cohort A reports to the building on Mondays and Tuesdays while Cohort B participates remotely via digital broadcasting and assigned projects.

Cohort B reports to the building on Thursdays and Fridays while Cohort A participates remotely via digital broadcasting and assigned projects.
- On Wednesdays, both cohorts participate digitally.
- New learning will occur each day and teachers will communicate with students on a frequent basis.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are suggested to effectively implement reopening plans for the 2020-21 school year:

1. I move to terminate the Purchase Agreement with Jim Patterson for the sale of a portion of the Jefferson School site.

Keeping Jefferson School enables the district to spread out elementary students and provide K-6 students with daily instruction even when in hybrid. The building also reduces the number of riders on each bus. Unilateral termination of the agreement is allowed under Section 10.
2. Terminate the Purchase Agreement with the City of Red Wing for the sale of a portion of the Jefferson School site.

See explanation above.

3. I move to configure Sunnyside Elementary School, Burnside Elementary School, Jefferson Elementary School, and Twin Bluff School to serve students in grades K-6 and Red Wing High School to serve students in grades 7-12.

Converting grade-level centers to neighborhood schools significantly reduces riders on each bus and reduces or eliminates the need for transfer buses. It also significantly reduces interactions between students because more students would go to the same elementary school instead of riding to other schools.

4. Implement a two-tier bus system and set the "No Bus Zones" for all students at 2 miles.

Implementing staggered start times reduces the number of riders on each bus by using the same bus for different groups of students. The change to the "No Bus Zone" reduces riders on each bus.

5. Fully implement a 1:1 technology initiative for all K-12 students.

To effectively implement Distance Learning and Hybrid Learning, each K-12 student will be issued a Chromebook. Chromebooks purchased last year have a yearly lease cost of \$95,000. Policies and procedures are being developed.

6. Approve a revised school calendar for 2020-21.

The previously approved calendar included a pre-Labor Day start. To provide extra work and staff development time for teachers, the recommendation is to start on Tuesday, September 8th. Additional changes include adding two staff days in August so teachers can move, increasing the number of weeks with both cohorts in the building two days, and changing the dates for spring break.

7. Implement a traditional 4-block schedule at the high school with flexibility.

To reduce interactions between students, 4 blocks each day for a quarter are recommended instead of the planned 8 periods per day for a semester. Changing to a block reduces the number of classes a student takes at a given time and reduces the how many students a teacher works with during a given quarter.

8. Initially authorize in-person learning each day for students in grades K-4 if enough staff members are available and County COVID rates are appropriate.

9. Initially authorize hybrid learning for students in grades 5-12 if enough staff members are available and Goodhue County COVID rates are appropriate.

10. Authorize the superintendent to institute more restrictive learning environments as determined by county COVID rates and/or recommendations made by Goodhue County or Minnesota Department of Health.

11. Authorize the hiring of personnel to fully implement fall reopening, including a Dean of Students for Jefferson / District Assessment Coordinator (if reductions are made elsewhere to offset additional costs); secretary for Jefferson; building nurse to serve the district (if needed); 4 custodians throughout the district; and Assistant Principal, Student Support Coordinator or Dean of Students for Red Wing High School.