
Transition to full in-person learning points to consider

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To: Karsten Anderson <klanderson@rwps.org>

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Karsten,

I know you have a board workshop this afternoon. I'm not sure if the transition to full in-person learning will be a topic of conversation, but if it is the following are some points to consider for moving the 7-12 start date back to Monday, April 5th for all students. They are as follows:

1. The logistics of having the building physically ready by Monday, 3/22, is going to be tight. We have a lot going on in the next few weeks and it's not like August when school was not in session. I'm concerned that maintenance will not be able to make the timeline with all of their regular responsibilities as well.
2. 2nd Vaccination scheduling and side effects. As you know, we have a large number of staff receiving their 2nd vaccine 3/24-3/26. Whether to find subs while going to get the shot or due to the ill side effects of the 2nd shot, I think we will be facing a lot of problems with subs on Thursday and Friday that week. Given this situation, is it worth pushing students back in on Mon 3/22? That would give us maybe 5 days of normal full in-person school during the weeks 3/22 and 3/29. Also, by delaying to 4/5/21, we are giving the vaccine a chance to work before the large number of students arrive.
3. It would be easier for students and staff to handle this transition to full in-person learning at the start of the 4th quarter on April 5th than to start on March 22nd with two weeks to go in the 3rd quarter.
4. Mitigation. After winter break, we felt compelled to give ourselves at least three weeks before transitioning students back to a hybrid schedule. We are now moving more students back in at only two weeks after a spring break. Would we not want to mitigate further by delaying our start to April 5th, the beginning of 4th quarter as we did after winter break?
5. This is a smaller problem, but we will have to create new seating charts for the lunchroom at the quarter break. There are 5 lunches to do this for. If we delay until April 5th, we'll only have to do this once.
6. The Governor gave new guidance the day after the board voted for the staggered start. According to the state, we no longer need to plan for this. That being the case, let's start on April 5th with everyone at the same time to maximize readiness. As mentioned before, it would be a lot smoother in a number of ways.

Thanks for looking through this email. I know there is a lot of pressure to come back ASAP, but in my opinion, we would really help our students and staff by delaying our start to April 5th. Let me know if you have questions.

Thanks,
George

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