DCS Community Meeting

August 26, 2021

Sandburg Elementary School campus

Start 6:03pm

Chris Barrows with the welcome message.

Future meetings will most likely be over Zoom, with the hope of meeting in the library as the school year goes on.

Staff/Teacher introductions. Alissa, DCS Secretary/IA. Ms Jewell, Youngers teacher. Ms. Stroup from Austin TX, our new Middles teacher. Ms. Subcleff, Olders teacher. Nami Kusunose, Associate Principal. Erin Bowser, Principal for Sandurg/DCS.

Students dismissed with teachers for classroom visits.

Community Meeting

Erin Bowser welcomes everyone back, nice to see everyone. Makes everything seem more real to see everyone in person.

Learned a lot in Spring (when students were back on campus).

Kids learn quickly, they will adapt quickly.

Today you received notes from Steering with overall guidelines. All school filters have been upgraded to MERS-10. Learning about ventilation system (Erin not an expert) but she is learning and wants to communicate the measures being undertaken to keep everyone safe. Machinery where a filter can go, there will be MERS-13 filters placed (but there is a backlog). Air is being circulated often (7 times per hour) with outside air within the interior ventilation system. MERS-13 recommended for smaller spaces. She has received questions about purchasing in-room HEPA filters, if it’s possible to make that work, there is no school budget for that. Can’t have filters with ionizers per the district. Not something the district is doing across the board at all, which is why the funds to purchase air filters will have to come in the form of a donation.

One other big concern is how lunch/snacks will work. Peek in the windows/cafeteria, CDC recommends 6 feet of distance between staff/adults (at all times) and also when students are unmasked. If they are within 6 feet during eating, they are considered to be “close contacts”. Three separate lunch periods:

Example of how lunch will look: 2/3/Middles: lunch in cafeteria/Commons. Assigned table groups by class, groups of 4 or 6. Students will be 3 feet apart from one another, their table will be 6 feet apart from another table. Trying to minimize risks of illnesses spreading between students.

Also, we are going to have optional eating areas outside of the cafeteria. They will not need to sign up, they will just go outside. At this time, we do not have tables to set up outside, we are going to see how many students choose outdoor seating and will adjust as needed. Buckets, tables, etc are all possibilities if the need arises.

Snacks: in the classroom, but can’t all have snack at the same time. Teachers will decide in classroom. Snacks may be outside, in the shared space, etc.

Erin Bowser opens up the floor for questions.

Q: Did you consider breaking up lunches by DCS (vs grade levels). Erin: No, we did not – just by grade level.

Q: What will recess look like? Erin: This year, masks are not required outside at this time, however we are going to highly recommend that students wear masks outside. We are not going to be doing zones this year, not doing zones will spread the kids out more. They’ll have a lot of freedom throughout. We will have supervisors out at recess teaching students to maintain socially distance, teaching them games they can play socially distant, Mr. Sandbo will hopefully also be teaching some games.

Hand sanitation: on the way out to recess and way back inside, students will be washing hands.

Q: With students who aren’t “getting” social distancing, can we require a mask? Erin: we found that with modeling students pick it up pretty well. If it is a continued problem we will work with students and their families.

Q: For lunch, how many students will that be at one time having lunch? Erin: 84 in the gym. Normal tables would be 14 students per table. In the commons, there are 20 tables, 4 students per table so about 80 students each.

Will have traffic patterns of getting school lunch or students who bring their own lunches. So kids aren’t all over the place during lunch.

Q: Any numbers on how many kids are going to be in person vs online. E: 387 students at Sandburg and 70-ish in DCS. So about 450-460 students. This week we have lost about 15 students switching to remote school.

Q: If we choose remote school, would we lose our place at DCS? Erin: No, you would keep that spot. District is asking that if you decide to move to remote school, that you wait to do it during a “natural break” (Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, etc) for less disruption.

Q: Who would be their teacher during remote school? Erin: last year, DCS students could stay with DCS teachers. This year, the remote school is separate and so it would not be anyone on this campus. This is the current plan, but the plan may change in the future.

Q: Will there be COVID testing here at school? Erin: The district is looking at quick access for students but do not at this time. We do not have a plan to implement random testing on campus. If a test is needed, the district will work with families to find a location.

Q: Will students be sharing school supplies? Erin: Teachers are looking at ways to avoid sharing supplies. In the past, it has been very communal, but this year they are looking at more individual supplies. If students are doing a project where they are touching the same thing, they are always sanitized between use.

Q: What are the requirements for keeping kids at home? Erin: If your child has COVID like symptoms or even a cold, we’re asking that parents keep their children at home. Our school nurse/staff will then call you to give you some guidance on possible next steps. There are some symptoms that will require you to stay out longer, the nurse will determine that.

If your child has any type of symptom, keep them home. Really important to do. We will also call home if we have a student that is demonstrating any type of COVID symptoms. Even if they seem like allergy symptoms, we are asking students to stay home. The CDC has found that attestation forms/procedures didn’t do much to help stop the spread because so many are asymptomatic. We didn’t have any students who got COVID from school. Some students tested positive got it outside of school. Any close contacts of those students did not get COVID.

Q: How many days to kids have to stay home? Nami COVID Supervisor: every case is different in regards to quarantining. It’s basically 10-14 days. School nurse/practitioner will contact you with next steps. Nurse will work with student/family with positive COVID case to determine when student was exposed, last date of possible exposure, etc goes in to determining quarantine.

Q: Students who were in close contact with a COVID case will be notified? Erin: If your student is a close contact, you will be called. If your student is in a class with a student who tests positive, you will also be contacted. Similar to how parents are notified if a student is diagnosed with lice.

Q: How does learning continue within quarantine? Erin: We are working with teachers to determine a protocol. Students want to be at school and learning and it’s frustrating to have to quarantine. Counselor will also be supporting families. We are working with the district on what that will look like. All elementary schools are asking the district how we can support those students.

Q: If you have one child who are identified as a close contact, are your other children then close contacts as well? Erin/Nami: It depends on the circumstances.

Q: COVID test, if it’s negative how does that affect quarantine? Erin: The school nurse will work with families, it’s most likely based on exposure not necessarily a negative test.

Erin: we are going to teach kids, we are going to model for kids – your kids are going to be great. Your kids want to be here. Everything we do here at school, is also happening outside of school. Encourage families to think about how kids can do the things that they want to do in a safe way. It’s on all of our minds, but we want to make sure that we are practicing safety and social distancing in all places.

Volunteering: Q: What will parent involvement look like in the classroom? Erin: It will be different, we can have parent volunteers in the building, just not in classrooms or shared spaces. Steering committee is looking at ways to keep parents involved.

Q: Registering for the DCS Website, what is the website used for? Chris: DCS Ourschoolpages is the website where people go to record hours, family directories, etc. Angela/Katherine will go in to that in more detail during the New Family Orientation. If you ever run in to an issue, you can contact Chris or Barb.

Mary Oemig makes a motion to empower the Steering Committee/Board to use extra $10,000 to purchase HEPA filters for the school.

Motion revised: Steering to look in to using the “extra” funds for HEPA filters for the school.

Vote taken, none opposed. Motion passes.

Sophie/Community Building/Volunteer opportunities. You have all accrued 1.5 hours towards family hours requirements just by attending this meeting. Volunteer background check by district and vaccination card for visual verification required for volunteering and activities.

Students return from their classroom vistis.

Walk-on business:

Mary: (in regards to volunteering) plenty of people know the roles, don’t be afraid to take on a job.

Communications Co-chair: Contacts for new families will be sent to all families. Parent/Family Directory is available on ourschoolpages. Class distro lists are updated with new families.

Register for OurSchoolPages.

Motion to adjourn

Seconded.

Meeting adjourned 6:59pm.