

Olean City School District  
Operations Committee Meeting Minute  
Monday, March 1, 2021  
4:30 pm  
Via ZOOM

Present:	Kelly Keller Rick Moore Jenny Bilotta Jen Kless	Janine Fodor Aaron Wolfe Jen Mahar Vicki Zaleski-Irizarry
Guest:	Lauren Stuff Nick Patrone	Brian Crawford Jeff Andreano
Observers:	Mary Hirsch-Schena	Andrew Caya

Reopening (Opportunities and Road Blocks) - Brian Crawford and Lauren Stuff

- Mr. Moore noted the CDC has not changed the guidance on the 6' social distancing rule
- Need to exercise caution; admin is working on a plan to bring back students in phases
- Transportation is a major issue due to the restrictions of seating (1 student per seat unless from the same household)
- Discussed potential liability issues if district does not follow CDC guidelines – insurance carrier webinar
- Once the CDC guidance changes, the district will have to revise the Reopening Plan submitted to SED
- The Admin Co will discuss reopening at this week's meeting

Brian and Lauren – presentation

- Phase 1 – March 15<sup>th</sup> – bring back lowest ten students per grade level (data driven)
- Phase 2 – April 12<sup>th</sup> – bring back all Title 1 Reading students (Tier 2) (data driven)
- Phase 3 – May 3<sup>rd</sup> – bring back all students, staggered

Brian and Lauren further discussed:

- Equality and Equity
- Roadblocks - siblings; transportation; staffing; contractual obligations; etc.
- Dismissal times for elementary schools and OIMS – too much of a gap
- Goals: bring all students back in-person the last two months of school

Committee concerns regarding in-person return:

- Mixed co-horts and cross contamination; students having different teachers and/or classrooms
- Transportation issues – survey parents to see if they would be willing to transport their child instead of child riding the bus
- Reopening Survey – need to determine how many parents would send their child(ren) back to school
- Staffing – if students return to in-person learning, will remote teachers be required to return to the classroom
- Could students return 100% if each desk has plexi glass barrier, students and staff continued to wear masks; desks placed in a certain position/direction
- In order to reopen schools need to survey parents to determine how many students would return 100% in-person; responses will assist in planning
- Would students be brought back 100% in-person 4 days per week or 5 days per week
- Why can students currently participate in sports but cannot resume to in-person learning

- Students not participating in instruction – can administration mandate they return 100% in-person
- Wednesday in-person instruction – alternate for each co-hort; Red one week; Gold the next week
- Janine thanked Brian and Lauren for their work on the elementary reopening plan
- Kelly would like to see reopening plans from OIMS and HS
- Kelly noted Williamsville school hired a company to audit space, layout classrooms, and position desks in order to return students to in-person learning; Kelly will forward the information to Rick and Jenny

#### 2021-2022 school year

- Staff and students to return 100% in-person
- In the event parents/guardians opt not to send their child to school, they will have to home instruct

#### Title 1 Math – Teaching Assistants

- Jen Mahar discussed the need for remediation and intervention at the elementary level
- Currently have Title 1 Reading Intervention
- 4 positions – would not be able to fully sustain positions with Title 1 funds; would need to reallocate other funds
- Would like to see the positions start before the end of the school year; summer program and ready for the start of the 2021-2022 school year
- Teaching Assistants – work with individual or groups of students; assist classroom teachers in instruction work; etc.
- Three levels of Teaching Assistants – qualifications - - high school diploma; would have to take child abuse, violence and harassment/discrimination training; must pass a state test; Level II and III require college credits
- Would be member of the Olean Teachers' Association
- Focus would be on remediation and intervention; work with certain students; hopefully reduce the number of students placed in alternate programs; would use teaching resources to train Teaching Assistants
- Kelly discussed the Williamsville school math lab award – she will share information with Jen Mahar
- Janine asked if there is a link between academic success (Math) Chest Club or Lego Club; are there after school skills building opportunities – need to make learning fun

#### February Student Survey – Jen Mahar

- Round 2 administered in February to students in grades 4 – 12
- Very little response from students in grades 4 - 5
- 194 responses from students in grades 6-7; 502 responses from students in grades 8-12
- Discussed student confidence of completing assigned work
- Students do feel that it is extremely important to do well in classes

#### Sports

- Several committee members expressed concerns regarding the return of some competitive sports (ie basketball); photos in OTH depict our athletes not wearing masks while on the court nor while they are sitting on the bench
- Mr. Moore will speak to the Athletic Director – this issue needs to be enforced
- Is the risk of getting COVID on a basketball court higher than getting COVID in a classroom?
- Spectators and players from outside the district – health screening; not wearing masks; screaming and cheering for their athletic – poses a high risk for the spread of COVID;
- Kelly noted that some sports have been restored and questioned whether extra-curricular activities will be resumed

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Next meeting: April 12, 2021 at 4:30 pm