

Reopening Schools Task Force Update

RCSD Board Meeting
June 25, 2020



Agenda

- Task Force Purpose and Process
- Updates on our Priorities
 - Community Focus
 - Health & Safety
 - Student Learning & Development
- Discussion and Next Steps



Purpose

- Gather and analyze information in order to recommend a model (or models) for RCSD to re-open safely and effectively in Fall 2020. The Task Force recommendations will form the basis of the reopening plan that the Superintendent will propose to the school board for approval, and then submit to the San Mateo County Office of Education by July 19, 2020.
- Monitor progress of the new model and recommend adjustments during the year as needed



Key activities

- **Gather information** (e.g., community priorities, health/safety requirements, RCSD lessons learned since March, best practices from other schools / systems)
- **Develop and analyze potential scenarios for Fall 2020**
- **Engage stakeholders** (parents, students, staff, community members & partners) to:
 - Share synthesis of what the Task Force is learning, and
 - Gather feedback on criteria and potential scenarios before making a final recommendation
- **Recommend a draft reopening plan for Supt. Sudaria to present to the RCSD board July 16, 2020 and SMCOE by July 24, 2020**
- **Monitor success of the plan after school opening, and recommend adjustments as needed** throughout the year based on results and new information (e.g., flare-ups, new public health guidance, etc.)



Members represent our important stakeholders

Stakeholder Group	Members
District Leadership (9)	Supt: Gina Sudaria Cabinet: Lara Burenin, Jennifer Gravem, Cindy Chin, Toni Stone, Solomon Hill, Will Eger Other staff: Aida Campara, Delma Camacho
School-based staff (7)	Principals: Amanda Kemp, Alex Quezada, Michelle Masuda, Robin Pang-Maganaris RTA: Ronda White, Nicole Shelley CSEA: Randy Jackson
Board Members (2)	Tamara Sobomehin, Sharifa Wilson
Parents (3)	Antonia Macias (DAC/DELAC Chair / Los Robles parent), Maria Vargas (DAC/DELAC Member / Los Robles parent), Nicole Sbragia (DAC/DELAC Member, Belle Haven parent)
Community Partners (5)	Ravenswood Education Foundation: Jenna Wachtel Pronovost B&GCP: Jose Gonzalez & Erick Granados CASSY: Elena Cacace Innovate Public Schools: Alicia Gallegos Fambrini

Subcommittees are engaging an even broader set of stakeholders and experts

- Curriculum & Instruction (Elementary & Middle School)
- Wellness & Mental Health
- Operations (Facilities, Nutrition, Transportation, Community Services)
- Staff Engagement / CBA
- Parent & Community Engagement

For a detailed list of Subcommittee members, leads, and driving questions:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IUXP94J-Clb4OgT92_hus5aSapSV4wv-aeWTh58l-fY/edit



We are working hard to gather input and consider options within our tight timeline

- Major Deadlines:
 - **Board-approved Reopening Plan due to San Mateo County by July 24**
 - **School opens August 26**
- 5 Task Force meetings since 5/20. Meeting weekly through July 15
- Subcommittees are meeting weekly or twice a week through mid-July
- Parents were surveyed in mid-June, second survey coming next week
- Parent meetings scheduled the week of June 29 and July 6 to give feedback

For a detailed timeline of Task Force and Subcommittee meetings, including links to notes:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YAthQbiyNxqdce3Zz2Fp4wQyLACBpWxiafxzLgd_45k/edit



Together, we identified Task Force priorities

The Task Force will work to balance tradeoffs between these priorities:

- **Health and safety** (the county's Four Pillars)
- **Student learning and development** (instruction, enrichment, socioemotional well-being)
- **Community focus** (parents, school/community partners, staff)
- **Alignment with RCSD core values**
(student-centered, innovation, integrity, respect, empowerment, excellence)



Health & Safety

The County is providing guidance on health & safety



- We must prioritize the health and safety of our students, staff and community
- We will be guided by the County's **Four Pillars** and their [Pandemic Recovery Framework](#)
- The County will monitor conditions and will decide if schools can reopen

Face masks are one of the county's pillars, but parents and staff still have many questions

- Who has to wear masks, and how often?
- What about very young students or students with sensory processing issues?
- Will my child get in trouble if they don't wear their mask all the time?
- As a teacher, how do I set expectations for my students about mask-wearing?
- What if I don't want my child to have to wear a mask?



Student Learning & Development

Parent survey showed a preference for on-campus school, but a big difference by language

- 70% of respondents would choose socially-distanced on-campus learning over at-home learning, but responses differed significantly by language
- 87% of Spanish survey respondents would choose on-campus. But even so, nearly half felt hesitant/concerned or extremely uncomfortable about sending children back to campus
- Nearly half of English-speaking respondents would choose at-home learning. Nearly half felt hesitant or extremely uncomfortable about on-campus. Of these, 14% would not send their child back to school on-campus
- 60% of families were supportive or very supportive of prioritizing TK-2 students for more on-campus learning (minimal difference by language)



Based on parent feedback and county guidelines, we've identified some assumptions

- We should prioritize creating on-campus learning opportunities for families
- We should also offer families the option of at-home learning if they are unable or unwilling to have children return on campus
- We should consider prioritizing TK-2 students for more on-campus learning
- We can accommodate half a class (12-15 students) in a typical classroom with social distancing



Researching three Elementary School models

1. TK-2 attend 100% of the time on campus with class size that matches the capacity of the classrooms with social distancing (for the families that opt in); 3-5 attend 2 days on-campus, 3 days per week at-home learning
2. TK-2 attend half days, 4 days per week with AM/PM schedule, 1 day per week at-home; 3-5 attend 2 days on-campus, 3 days per week at-home learning
3. TK-5 2 days on-campus, 3 days per week at-home learning



Researching two Middle School models

1. AM/PM - $\frac{1}{2}$ the students come on-campus in the morning and $\frac{1}{2}$ the students come in the afternoon
2. A Day / B Day - Students do on-campus learning 2 days per week and at-home learning for 3 days per week



Community Focus

- Focus on and respond to parents, school / community partners, and staff
- Process of developing the plan should engage and value the perspectives of the community
 - Parents, staff, community partners represented on Task Force and in Subcommittees
 - Two subcommittees for Parent/Community Engagement & Staff Engagement
 - Parent surveys to gather broader input
 - Parent meetings / focus groups to have more in-depth conversations
 - Staff feedback gathered by RTA & CSEA as well as through conversations
- Process should be transparent
 - Google site will share presentations, meeting notes, timelines and the final plan



Discussion and next steps

- Do Trustees have feedback or suggestions for the Task Force?
- We welcome questions and feedback from trustees and the public
- We will report back to the Task Force and address any questions / suggestions raised tonight