

# The Watershed School

## Academic Policy Committee Work Session Zoom Meeting Minutes February 25, 2021

### 1) Welcome and call to order

- a. Commenced: 6:03 pm
- b. APC in attendance: Jason, Jarrod, Kelly, Amy, Dave, Moira, Becky, Renee, Carie
- c. Zoom total participants: 14

### 2) Head Teacher Report

- a. **New CDC guidelines:** The CDC issued new guidelines/operational strategy for schools on Friday February 12 that outline four risk categories based on the number of new cases per 100,000 (approximately the same as our borough's population) in 7 days.
  - i. FNSBSD new cases in 7 days (as of 2/25): 118 (high transmission/red zone)
  - ii. Recommended mitigation strategies and learning modes for the zones (blue, yellow, orange, red) are included in the new guidelines.

Table 1. CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19<sup>1</sup>

Indicator	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days <sup>2</sup>	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days <sup>3</sup>	<5.0%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	≥10.0%

<sup>1</sup>If the two indicators suggest different levels, the actions corresponding to the higher threshold should be chosen. County-level data on total new cases in the past 7 days and test percent positivity are available on the County View tab in [CDC's COVID Data Tracker](#).

<sup>2</sup>Total number of new cases per 100,000 persons within the last 7 days is calculated by adding the number of new cases in the county (or other community type) in the last 7 days divided by the population in the county (or other community type) and multiplying by 100,000.

<sup>3</sup>Percentage of positive diagnostic and screening NAATs during the last 7 days is calculated by dividing the number of positive tests in the county (or other administrative level) during the last 7 days by the total number of tests resulted over the last 7 days. Additional information can be found on the [Calculating Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 \(SARS-CoV-2\) Laboratory Test Percent Positivity: CDC Methods and Considerations for Comparisons and Interpretation](#) webpage.

Table 2. Recommended Implementation of Mitigation Strategies and K-12 School Learning Modes by Level of Community Transmission for Schools That Do Not Implement Expanded Screening Testing

Low Transmission <sup>1</sup> Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
All schools implement 5 key mitigation strategies: Universal and correct use of masks required; physical distancing; handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine. Diagnostic testing <sup>2</sup> : Symptomatic students, teachers, and staff and close contacts referred for diagnostic testing			
K-12 schools open for full in-person instruction Physical distancing of 6 feet or more to the greatest extent possible <sup>3</sup>		Elementary schools in hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance <sup>4</sup> Physical distancing of 6 feet or more is required	Middle and high schools in virtual only instruction unless they can strictly implement all mitigation strategies, and have few cases; schools that are already open for in-person instruction can remain open, but only if they strictly implement mitigation strategies and have few cases <sup>5</sup>
Sports and extracurricular activities occur; physical distancing of 6 feet or more to the greatest extent possible <sup>6</sup>	Sports and extracurricular activities occur with physical distancing of 6 feet or more required	Sports and extracurricular activities occur only if they can be held outdoors, with physical distancing of 6 feet or more	Sports and extracurricular activities are virtual only

<sup>1</sup>Levels of community transmission defined as total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days (low, 0-9; moderate, 10-49; substantial, 50-99; high, ≥100) and percentage of positive tests in the past 7 days (low, <5%; moderate, 5-7.9%; substantial, 8-9.9%; high, ≥10%).

<sup>2</sup>Diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2 is intended to identify occurrence of SARS-CoV-2 infection at the individual level and is performed on individuals with or without suspected COVID-19 infection in accordance with the test's authorization and labeling.

<sup>3</sup>If physical distancing of at least 6 feet among all students, teachers, and staff within a class, cohort, or pod is not possible at all times, schools should ensure physical distancing between classes, cohorts, and pods.

<sup>4</sup>Hybrid learning or reduced attendance is intended to maximize physical distance between students. Schools may consider hybrid learning models or instructional modes where substantial percentages of students are in virtual only instruction. At all levels of community transmission, schools should provide families the option to participate in virtual learning if a student or family member is at risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

<sup>5</sup>Strict implementation of mitigation strategies refers to policies that require consistent and correct use of masks, physical distancing of at least 6 feet, all other key mitigation strategies.

<sup>6</sup>School officials should implement limits on spectators and attendees for sports, extracurricular activities, and school events as consistent with recommendations for masking and physical distancing for each phase.

iii. New Zone colors and requirements:

1. Blue and Yellow Zones (low and moderate community transmission) open for in-person instruction for K-12
    - a. Physical distancing of 6-ft or more to the greatest extent possible for blue and yellow
    - b. No mixing of classes (no buddy classes like 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> combining PE)
  2. Orange and Red Zones (substantial and high community transmission) recommend hybrid modes for elementary schools
    - a. Physical distancing of 6-ft or more required for orange and red
- b. Jarrod had meetings with his supervisor and assistant superintendent about CDC/Smart Start guidelines

- i. Smart Start is in process of being updated, should be out next week, changes to be in alignment with new CDC guidelines
      - 1. In-person guidelines will be based on number of new cases of 7 day period instead of the avg 14-day case rate
  - c. **Where we are now:** Watershed has been following the DHSS/DEED Smart Start guidelines based on the operational risk zone determined by the [FNSBSD Medical Advisory Committee](#). The committee meets on Thursday evening and any change in [operational zone](#) is reported on Friday. We are currently in the high-risk or “red” operational zone.
    - i. Current 14-day case rate average: 14.1
    - ii. Current 7-day case rate average: 17.4
  - d. **Remote learning option** in place through end of 2020-2021 school year. This is district wide.
- 3) **Discussion Topic:** Discussion of new CDC guidelines and factors determining Watershed’s transition from remote-only (with some phase-in) to the in-person/remote hybrid model.
  - a. **Given that Smart Start guidelines** will be updated by Spring Break, and Watershed has been following the Smart Start guidelines, students will begin in-person school using the hybrid model. Cohort A attends on March 15<sup>th</sup>, Cohort B attends on March 16<sup>th</sup>.
    - i. Watershed will need extra help with recess/lunch duty coverage. Jarrod will be sending out a request for help.
- 4) **Topics for Next meeting:**
  - i. **How to implement Blue/Yellow Zone** of new CDC guidelines that will be included in Smart Start (ultimately this is kind of a transition phase for this fall).
  - ii. **2021-2022 School Year**
    - 1. What do we want? What will it look like? Do we have a remote learning option?
  - iii. **2021-2022 Calendar**
- 5) **Next meeting date for Special Session:**
  - a. Tuesday, March 16.
- 6) **Adjourn**
  - a. Time: 7:04 pm