

The Watershed School

Academic Policy Committee Zoom Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2021

1) Welcome and call to order

- a. Commenced: 6:02 pm
- b. APC in attendance: Jason, Jarrod, Kelly, Amy, Abigail, Moira, Becky, Dave, Renee, Carie
- c. Zoom total participants: 21

2) Head Teacher Report

- a. **In-person hybrid**
 - i. Going well, kids happy, transition will get better over time

3) Action Item: Blue/Yellow Zones

- 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 3/16): 86 (substantial transmission/orange 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-19⁴

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 ²	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days ³	<5.0%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	≥10.0%

⁴If 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](#).

²Total 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.

³Percentage 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 ¹ 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 ² : 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 ³		Elementary schools in hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance ⁴ 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 ⁵
Sports and extracurricular activities occur; physical distancing of 6 feet or more to the greatest extent possible ⁶	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

¹Levels 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%).

²Diagnostic 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.

³If 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.

⁴Hybrid 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.

⁵Strict 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.

⁶School 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 3rd and 4th combining PE)
- b. Watershed has been following CDC guidelines (in the past Smart Start guidelines)
- c. Jarrod suggests when Covid numbers hit Yellow Zone, move to have all students back in-person 4 days a week (removing cohorts), understanding that 6 ft distance won't be possible given class size (22-23 per class max.), keeping classes separated, mask wearing and hand washing required, retain remote learning option, leaving Fridays for teacher interaction with remote only students

- i. Starting on the Monday after a Monday that hits Yellow
- d. Jason asked who/where to look at what for the Covid numbers
 - i. Jarrod uses the State Covid Hub, filtering for the last 7 days to get the count
- e. Dave, good with the 4 days, leaving Fridays to reach out to remote-only students
Abigail and Amy agree
- f. Public Testimony
 - i. Mrs. Haas – support of 4 days when Yellow/Blue levels; she loves having the schools in the building, leaving Fridays as all remote
 - ii. Mrs. Perez-Agrees with Mrs. Haas, Dave, Abigail; imperative to have Fridays for remote-only students
 - iii. Jackie Oakes-agrees with following the CDC guidelines
 - iv. Vanessa Shannon- her child was very happy to be back in classroom
- g. MOTION: Move to follow what Jarrod outlined
 - i. Moved by: Dave , 2nded: Renee
 - ii. Vote: passes unanimously

4) Action Item: Fall 2021 Plan

- a. District wide: eLearning, BEST homeschool, or neighborhood school
- b. Jarrod would like to proceed with opening Watershed this fall without cohorts, 5 days a week, and full days of school. No remote learning. Masks likely required...field trips highly recommended!
 - i. Jarrod thinks it's important for families to have a direction for the fall. It's good to have a plan to go on.
 - ii. If families wanted to do eLearning or BEST homeschool, then they would need to unenroll from Watershed and lose their spot in the school.
 - iii. Unless there is a wildcard "Covid-21" scenario, we would have to deal with.
- c. Amy suggested providing rationale of why we are proposing this plan, including the District's intent
- d. Jason brought up what if CDC guidelines aren't updated by the time school starts
- e. Positive note: Vaccinations in the community already, and more to come
- f. Motion to have Jarrod submit the fall 2021 plan to Watershed families and then allow for public testimony and vote at a later date
 - i. Moved by: Renee, 2nded: Becky
 - ii. Passes unanimously

5) Action Item: Watershed 2021-2022 School Calendar

- a. Move to adopt Watershed's 2021-2022 calendar
 - i. Moved by: Amy, 2nded: Becky
 - ii. Vote: Passes unanimously

6) Upcoming: Parent APC elections

- a. Kelly and Carie parent seats were supposed to have elections in spring 2020. They were postponed.
- b. Jason and Renee parent seats are supposed to be up in spring 2021.
- c. If there are more candidates than seats, then election will occur and the top two candidates will fill the seats.
- d. Motion: In order to eliminate having 4 parent-seat elections all in one year, extend Jason and Renee's parent seat elections until spring 2022. Kelly and Carie's seats will be up for election in April 2021.
 - i. Moved: Amy, 2nded by: Dave

ii. Vote: Passes unanimously

7) Jarrod requests an Executive Session to discuss contractual matter after main meeting.

8) **Next meeting date:**

a. April 15.

9) **Adjourn**

a. Time: 7:08pm

Executive Session

Commenced: 7:09pm

Discussion about reducing budget expenses that required cutting a staff position.

Adjourned: 7:14pm