

September Parent Advisory Council Notes

On the Parent Advisory Council meeting on September 17, there were 26 participants in attendance.

- Dr. Huff walked through the purpose of the group for those parents who were new to the Parent Advisory Council.
- Dr. Huff introduced the presenters for the day:
 - Mr. Millard House
 - Mr. Jim Sumrell
 - Dr. Sean Impeartrice
 - Dr. Emily Vaughn
 - Ms. Erin Hedrick

Mr. House shared the reopening plan. **The full reopening plan can be accessed [here](#)**

- Planning has been underway since the very early days of the pandemic to ensure we adapted and met students' needs
- The Communicable Disease Team is comprised of district leaders across departments and representatives from the Montgomery County Health Department
- Calendar adjustment ensured we had time with teachers for planning and training
- The feedback we received from parents over the summer about their preference for schools reopening is very similar to what families ultimately selected when they made their choice between traditional or virtual instruction
- Our district is unique in providing families a choice between traditional and virtual
- CMCSS K-12 Virtual is a separate, virtual school for students; remote learning is what occurs when a group of students may be learning using virtual tools based on the circumstances of the pandemic, or other circumstances like weather-related closures
- The district has put several precautions in place in the traditional, in-person format to help keep COVID-19 from spreading in schools. Many of these precautions have been put in place by the Operations Department, but also include measures such as mask requirements, cohorting students, changes to field trip and visitation policies, and self-screening. To review all of the protocols in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, please review the Reopening Plan and all other updates from CMCSS regarding reopening at the [CMCSS Reopening Webpage](#)

Jim Sumrell shared some of the measures that the CMCSS Operations Department is taking for safety:

- 2-step cleaning process
- Purchased sneeze guards for key common areas (front offices, media centers, libraries, etc.) and in classrooms that have tables where multiple students sit. Rooms with desks have all desks turned in the same direction
- Purchased and provided ample cleaning and sanitizing supplies for classrooms
- Installed additional sanitizing stations
- Changed operation of mechanical system to ensure air circulation throughout the day and installed increased filtration systems

Emily Vaughn and Sean Impeartrice shared information about school reopening from the Instruction Department:

- Both traditional and virtual students are using SchoolsPLP, which houses content, assignments, text and other materials all in one place
- The school calendar did change this year, but preserved all major breaks

- Under traditional, in-person learning, students follow the traditional school calendar. They also use the SchoolsPLP platform so that if students have to transition to remote learning for a period of time, they are already comfortable with that platform
- In addition to reopening precautions, we provided training for school leaders and teachers around safety and health scenarios and virtual best practices

Erin Hedrick shared information about CMCSS K-12 Virtual:

- CMCSS K-12 Virtual developed because we wanted to provide an opportunity for students to learn virtually if they or their families felt more comfortable with that option
- Ms. Hedrick covered many different elements of CMCSS K-12 Virtual, such as eligibility, the Learning Mentor role, expectations for students, and course offerings. All of these items are detailed in the full presentation from the meeting
- While there have certainly been challenges with technology, there are still several options in place that families can utilize for support, such as Technology Live Assist

The full presentation from Sean Impeartrice, Emily Vaughn, and Erin Hedrick can be found [here](#).

Mr. House closed the meeting by walking through reminders and challenges the school district is facing as we navigate the pandemic:

- Meal pick-ups will continue for all students, virtual included. These will begin on Friday the 18th, and will be on the last day of the school week from 1:00-2:00 PM
- Finding enough substitutes is a challenge
- Families are well aware of technology issues that we have been facing
 - Load balancer and hardware gateway capacity problem
 - Currently expected to rectify these issues by the end of the week
 - Working with 2 different companies to rectify the issue
- The school system is using several different resources to track data on cases:
 - Montgomery County dashboard
 - Tennessee Department of Education dashboard
 - District-level dashboard is in the works
 - Employee absences
- Reminded parents that following the precautions in place at schools is the best way to ensure the virus does not spread within schools

For a full list of participant questions, please click [here](#).

The next Parent Advisory Council meeting will take place on Thursday, October 22nd, from 11:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M. via Zoom.