

## **Parent Advisory Group**

*Thursday, February 18, 11:30 AM*

There were 15 participants in attendance. Presenters included Mr. House with his Director's Update and Ms. Erica Christmas, Human Resources Coordinator. For a recording of this Parent Advisory Group, please [click here](#).

### Director's Update

- Kirkwood Campus is well under way – currently in Phase 2
  - Phase 1 completed 1/12/21
- Currently planning for ESSER 2.0 funding and how to allocate it
  - Maintenance for buildings
  - Hotspots, licenses for programs to support remote learning, etc.
  - Learning loss
    - Summer camps – in the past these have been shortened days, but this year we are going to have longer days
- COVID-19 Innovation Recovery Network (CIRN) – Part of the work that we have done with SCORE along with 5 other school districts has involved enhancing reopening policies and practices, accelerating learning, and bridge to postsecondary
  - Currently working on our recovery plan. This will be focused on the available resources we have to ensure students are able to recover from COVID-19
  - Mid-Year data revealed that staffing is still a huge concern, along with specific enrollment changes (drops in Pre-K), student engagement, and absenteeism
- Tennessee will begin vaccinating teachers– We will begin reaching out to vaccinate adults 65 and older, and teachers
  - Awaiting to see how much vaccine we will receive
- We are addressing a couple of different concerns at the legislative level
  - Vaccine deployment
  - Protecting districts to continue meeting student and parent needs
    - Hold harmless on funding
    - Bills targeted toward rapidly-growing school districts
- Thank you so much for your commitment to supporting your students during virtual learning – I'm home with two kids and I see how hard it is. I know you all are ready for normal, and we appreciate your patience

### Questions

- Does the HVAC upgrade allow for air filtration that will help with COVID-19?
  - In many cases they'll be upgraded – we started at the beginning of the school year with upgraded filters, and those will be included in our new systems
- With the reactions that people are having with the second vaccine, is there a plan for having subs ready as teachers miss days?
  - We are doing our best to coordinate with health officials so that we can schedule the vaccine so that when they get their second dose, we provide some days (weekend, etc.) so that they can see what reaction they're having

- State testing – is this something we have accepted, or are there any plans for families who are not comfortable with students testing in-person?
  - We certainly continue to have conversations with state leaders about this, since it is something we are required to do by state law. We hope those conversations will be productive and the Commissioner may have the ability to waive districts from this requirement if they make a good faith effort to bring students in for testing. However, the district is also working diligently to provide as safe an environment as possible for virtual students to come take their tests
- Which vaccine is causing the reaction?
  - Our teachers have received Pfizer so far; difficult to say what others' experiences have been
- Gyms are being used for PE in a lot of instances, some are using the gyms for other purposes, using classrooms. How can we get kiddos into gyms?
  - It's a local school decision. Jessica Harris is working with principals who are in this reality. It depends on enrollment, storage circumstances, etc. We'll continue doing everything that we can do to get kids in the gym to exercise
- Is there a district-wide plan to return to locker use?
  - It will be determined school-by-school

For the full Director's update from Mr. House, please [click here](#).

Erica Christmas presented on substitutes

- Shared some of the data that has proven challenging for us with subs
  - Typically, we have around 420 subs in our pool. Currently, we have around 200
- We have been recruiting and have several subs starting with us on Monday
- We have started a campaign that is targeted to our parent group – we would love to have more parents involved in subbing. We know that many parents would love to volunteer and cannot this year, so this is a great way to be involved and help keep our schools open

Questions

- Are subs able to stay at one school or are they assigned?
  - Our subs can pretty much go anywhere they want to, including just subbing at one school. It's likely we have enough absences to accommodate that flexibility

For the full set of notes from Ms. Christmas' update, please [click here](#). For a flyer to share with other parents about being a substitute, please [click here](#).

The next Parent Advisory Council meeting will take place on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 AM via Zoom.