

**Meeting of the School Board
David Douglas School District No. 40
March 4, 2021**

A virtual Board Workshop of the David Douglas School Board was held on Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 6:00pm.

School Board Members present via virtual meeting: Andrea Valderrama, Board Chair; Sahar Muranovic, Vice Chair; Donna Barber, Aaron Barrow, Christine Larsen, and Stephanie D. Stephens.

Also present via virtual meeting: Ken Richardson, Superintendent/Clerk; Candy Wallace, Assistant Superintendent; Patt Komar, Director of Administrative Services; Derek Edens, Director of Assessment & Technology; Brooke O'Neill, Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Kelly Devlin, Director of ESL & Equity; Mary Pearson, Director of Student Services; Andy Long, Director of PK-12 Education, and Laurie Brunelle, Board Secretary.

The Workshop Agenda included the following.

Call to Order / Native American Land Acknowledgement

Agenda Overview and Workshop Goals

- Discuss Limited In-Person Instruction (LIPI).
- Determine how LIPI compares to other options that may be in front of us at some point.
- Making sure we are centering good science and medical data.

Limited In-Person Instruction (LIPI) Update – Mr. Richardson, Ms. O'Neill, Ms. Pearson, Ms. Komar, and Mr. Long provided the Board an update on the current status of the District's LIPI planning process. They provided the following information.

Limited In-Person Instruction (LIPI):

- Schools operating in Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) are able to bring in a limited number of students for limited hours.
- LIPI is intended to supplement not supplant instruction through CDL.
- Student participation must be voluntary.
- Schools may offer LIPI based on the following:
 - Address connectivity or WI-Fi issues.
 - Provide academic support and access assessments.
 - Provide social, emotional or mental health support.
 - Build educator to student relationships and support peer-to-peer interactions.
 - Support ongoing engagement and attendance.
- Schools should not offer or suggest LIPI based solely on the following:
 - Disability, race, gender, religion or sexual orientation.
- LIPI guidance.
 - Cohort groups are limited to no more than 20 students at a given time.
 - Students cannot be a part of two cohorts in any given week.
 - The time a student or cohort can spend in a school on a given day is two consecutive hours.
 - LIPI cannot replace the requirements of CDL.
- What is recommended?
 - Any one staff member cannot interact with more than three cohorts in a given day and five in a week.
 - A stable cohort is defined as a group of students that are consistently in contact with each other.
 - One student working with a teacher does not constitute a cohort.
- The differences between CDL with LIPI and Hybrid were provided.

Operational Blueprint:

- A document that all schools in Oregon need to complete during this time of COVID.
- Looks at instructional model and health and safety protocols needed for in-person learning.
- Combination of the guidance outlined in Ready Schools Safe Learners and Communicable Disease Plan.
- Sections required for in-person learning.
 - Public Health Protocols, Facilities and School Operations, and Response to Outbreak.

Public Health Protocols:

- 35 square foot requirement for each individual which includes students and staff.
- Maintain 6 foot distance in all transitions.
- Process to receive anonymous concerns about building safety and manage the enforcement of physical distancing.
- Contact logs and tracing.
- Student and staff screening protocols.
- Required isolation of staff and students who are exhibiting COVID symptoms and self administered testing.
- Facilities and School Operations.
 - Arrival and dismissal procedures.
 - Supporting students who exhibit dysregulation. Required designated space.
 - Playgrounds, fields, and recess.
 - Establish protocols to wash/sanitize hands prior to and after recess.
 - Recess activities need to be designed and allow for physical distancing.
 - Outdoor play equipment does not require disinfection.
 - Shared equipment need to be cleaned and disinfected at least daily.
- Nutrition Services.
 - Meals most likely will be given to students after LIPI on the way home.
 - Any meals eaten at the building will require a cleaning and disinfecting protocol.
- Transportation.
 - As students board, they will be visually assessed for symptoms.
 - One student per seat.
 - Students and staff are required to wear face coverings.
 - Disinfection will occur between routes.
- The differences between cleaning, disinfecting, and ventilation were provided.
- Ventilation.
 - Increase outside air and decrease indoor air recirculation.
 - Upgrade HVAC filters.
 - Increase airflow into areas by opening windows and adding air purifiers.
 - Evaluated air quality in 20% of rooms in each building.
- Response to outbreak.
 - Protocols and sample communications available.

Our Planning Work:

- We began this work in January.
- Elementary started with Hybrid planning and secondary started with LIPI planning.
- Ready School Safe Learners (RSSL) School Committees were designed to gather input from staff.
- Two representatives from each team along with their administrator formed the RSSL District Committees.
 - The purpose is to give input on a District model around safety, scheduling, prepping classrooms, reviewing blueprints, etc.
- David Douglas LIPI Guidance.
 - Staff receive consistent information about what LIPI is and what it is not.
 - Provides a clear direction on how to implement LIPI effectively at each school.
 - LIPI student referral form was included for each school.
 - Additional data to support LIPI decisions.
- A LIPI timeline was provided.
- LIPI planning – highlights of the work.
 - Amazing leadership from the building level.
 - A collective effort from teachers and staff in their help to create the plan.

Multnomah County Health Presentation – Dr. Ann Loeffler, Pediatric Infectious Disease and Multnomah County Health Department Deputy Health Officer provided the following information in regards to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Why did we close schools in the spring of 2020?

- Children and schools are known to be important drivers of some viral processes.

- We did not know what role children and school would play in the COVID-19 epidemic.
- School closures are part of well know interventions used to mitigate outbreaks.
- When SARS-CoV-2 arrived in the US, we knew little about incubation period, number of people infected by a case, and spectrum of illness.
- What we know now about SARS-CoV-2.
 - Children are less likely to be infected, be very sick when infected, and transmit to others.
 - Children can tolerate masks, participate other mitigation efforts, and attend school and day care with careful mitigation and not contribute significantly to ongoing spread.
- School reopening – All pre-vaccine.
 - Some schools in other countries never closed.
 - Some schools re-opened early in-person or hybrid model.
 - Schools have made adjustments to protect students, staff, families, and community.
 - Schools have rarely closed due to in-school transmission.
 - Schools have closed due to political pressure during surge of community transmission.
- Multiple studies were shared from other states and countries.
- American Academy of Pediatrics put out guidance for safe schools.
 - Advice to the adults is more stringent than to the children.
- CDC guidance: Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through phased mitigation.
- Local updates.
 - Pfizer and Moderna Vaccine: 201,197 doses have been given in Multnomah County.
 - Johnson and Johnson Vaccine: one dose vaccine with 85% protection against severe disease.
 - Testing and positivity rates in Multnomah County: since November numbers have been coming down. Oregon has the second lowest rate of death.
 - Zip code level data: shows where a person lives not where the disease was acquired.
 - Hospitalizations have been declining.
 - Case by race and ethnicity: during the peak of the epidemic the BIPOC population in the East County area was disproportionately affected.
 - Race and ethnicity group's rates are declining.
- Variants.
 - Oregon is just starting to systematically looking for variants and to monitor for mutations.
 - Vaccine companies are working on new vaccines in case we need booster shots to do a better job against the variants.
- Testing.
 - PCR Test: results in half – few days.
 - Antigen Test: results in 15-30 minutes.
 - Anibody Test: have not been too accurate until recently.

Public Testimony

Live Testimony - Full Comment is located in the David Douglas School District Board Meeting Archives.

- Jesse FledderJohann, district parent
 - Feels the Board has made a decision that will directly harm a huge number of children, presumably due to the fear the pandemic will cause greater harm.
 - Request to send students back to school.

Written Testimony - The documents are considered public record and kept on file at the David Douglas School District.

- Leah Hadley, district staff
 - Shared a letter from multiple doctors regarding the following.
 - Urging education leaders to open schools to in-person learning.
 - The risks of ongoing distance learning far outweigh any benefits.
- Marcie Berzinskis, district parent
 - Discouraged the District has decided not to move forward in a Hybrid model.
 - Requests the Board to reconsider their choice and do what's right for the students.

- Katie Lee, district parent
 - Looking forward to LIPI because the last year has been a struggle for her family and children.
 - Expects transparency in the LIPI process as well as a detailed report for determining eligibility.
- Kathleen McDade, district staff
 - Supports the Board's decision to continue CDL with the addition of LIPI for students in need.
 - Believes that beginning Hybrid this late would disrupt the learning that's taking place in CDL.
- Amy Antonio-Claussen, district parent
 - Feels that changing the format at this time would bring added stress to the teachers.
 - Request to focus LIPI talk for special needs kids and leave this current school year alone for the majority.

Discussion and Next Steps – The Board was allowed time for questions and comments. Discussion items are listed below with the full discussion located in the David Douglas School District Board Meeting Archives.

- Request to post the parent survey results on "students returning" to our website for the community to view.
- Parent Survey results out of 5100 participants.
 - No, I will keep my student in distance learning for the remainder of the year – 36%.
 - No, I will keep my student in distance learning until everyone has had the vaccination – 19%
 - Yes, my student will return to school for in-person learning – 45%.
- With 35 square foot distancing how many students with a teacher can be in a classroom? Average of 15.
- LIPI attendance: maximum of 2 consecutive hours. We are offering three 2 hour shifts.
- Students eligible for in-person instruction will do their CDL in LIPI. After CDL: extension/support.
- Staffing: how are LIPI students getting their instruction? Staffing is part of our MOU we are currently discussing with DDEA. Options: classified staff, specialists, or reassigning students.
- For the most needy kids, can we use volunteers? We need guidance to allow this.
- Any middle school activities being planned beside sports? Two hour window after CDL for academic and social emotional learning.
- Are we looking at a LIPI model for summer programming? This will depend on how the data goes.
- If the Governor mandates going back to school, how prepared are we? Some LIPI planning can transfer over to Hybrid.
- If LIPI goes well, the first time we could have SUN is May 1st.
- Would Fir Ridge meet 35 foot distancing requirement? Smaller classrooms: looking at 1 cohort at a time.
- Self administered testing: takes 15 minutes and would need written permission to test students.
- CTP students are moving forward in a Hybrid plan.
- Upgrading ventilation system: prior to COVID we've had a regular testing process but the pandemic has drawn attention to the importance of ventilation.
- Decisions were made based on logistical challenges coupled with the state's limitations.
- Transportation screening may be from the the driver or an assistant.
- Request for real evidence of students thriving in CDL?
- Request to publish the specific criteria used in the LIPI student selection process.
- At the next Board meeting we will revisit what the planning looks like for all options this year and in the fall.

Adjourn



Andrea Valderrama, Board Chair



Ken Richardson, Superintendent / Clerk