

LSAT meeting 11/18/20

In attendance: Keri Sikich, Jen Geoffroy, Jonathan Topping, Shareen Beech, Elke Chen, Josh Beraha, Kestaganer Johnson, Sarah Schiers, Skip Holmes

Principal Geoffroy explained the purpose of the Reopen Community Corps (RCC) and the goal to reopen for Term 3 on February 1.

The LSAT will be part of the RCC moving forward. The RCC will meet four times before Term 3. This meeting is the first of the RCC meetings.

DCPS wants to include all the stakeholders in the RCC process: staff, parents, students, etc.

RCC should help create a shared vision and purpose for Term 3. The RCC will also help shape and define the need and goals for a successful reopening.

For the remainder of Term 2, we will prioritize the CARE classroom.

Hearst hosted its walkthrough inspection for reopening readiness on November 2. Here are the notes provided by PTA Co-President Julia Krahe from that walkthrough:

Classrooms

Whether windows in every room in the school can be opened, and whether teachers know how to open them

- No. With the new HVAC upgrades, they are not supposed to open the windows. It introduces new unfiltered air and temperature changes, making the system work harder to maintain the air quality.

Verification that the kids are able to get drinking water from the classrooms and not hallway drinking fountains. If in the classrooms, that the water is to be poured into a vessel and no direct mouth to spigot.

- All fountains work in classrooms. Everyone will be given a reusable bottle to use (and take home and wash and bring back).
- The reusable water bottles are not yet available. In the meantime, single-use water bottles have been provided for everyone.

Will the kids need to bring supplies or will there be supplies at school? Will there be any shared supplies? Will they be sanitized and at what frequency?

- Kids with DCPS-provided devices will bring them back, and then the devices will stay at school. Kids using non-DCPS devices at home will get a DCPS device to keep at school.

- o The school has not yet been given the new DCPS devices for the kids that need them.
- Classroom supplies (crayons, pencils, etc.) will be given to kids in their own personal boxes.
- o [Julia note: I specifically asked if they have enough supplies and Jen said yes, they have a ton of supplies. Apparently “the hoarders have been identified.” 😊]
- CARE teachers will connect with the virtual teachers to be sure they have the rooms ready to go when it comes to things like paper, etc. This has not yet happened.
- Any other supplies that are used for learning will be quarantined/cleaned/etc. as necessary between students.

Overall

School toilets are completely operational (student and staff) and there is plenty of warm water, soap, towels/functional dryers.

- All toilets/water/soap/towel dispensers work. The only hand dryers are in the gym and no one should be going there. (Julia note: Which is good, since those apparently just blow germs around the room.)

How many hand sanitizer dispensers are available in the school? Where are they positioned?

- They have enough; stands for the entry ways (including an extra one, should they open a third door) and wall-mounted dispensers that aren't all put up yet.

HVAC

Regarding the broken HVAC system on the entire 2nd floor of the building, has the specific problem been diagnosed? How will it be fixed? What is the timeline for the fix?

- It has been diagnosed, but it is not yet fixed. When it was installed, they used aluminum pipes, when they should have used copper, which causes all kinds of problems (not least of which are rust and weakness).
- o See attached for the current HVAC status letter.
- DCPS is replacing all piping for the HVAC on the second floor of both buildings. This should take 2-3 weeks and is supposed to be done by November 30. With the current schedule, they won't have kids on the second floor in November; November 30 is the day they're projected to run out of room to distance without using the second floor.
- o Note from Julia: Made a point of ensuring that the Mary Cheh representative who was there knew about this.

What information and documentation will be provided to the Hearst community to prove that both HVAC systems but in particular this broken one are fully repaired and highly functional?

- We'll get a report akin to the report we have received so far that is updated appropriately.

Do the 2 HVAC systems work together? Does the integrity of one impact the other?

- No.

Can we expect the bottom floor HVAC to be any less efficient in purifying and circulating the air because it's working twice as hard?

- No, because it will only be managing the first floor, and no kids/teachers will be on the second floor.

Does the improved HVAC system have filters that need to be replaced? At what frequency will they be replaced?

- Yes; filters (for the HVAC and the machines that are in each room) are managed by the building engineer, who comes on the weekends.

When repairs are being made, will they occur while students and staff are in the building? If so, how many additional adults will that be and what precautions will be taken to ensure safety for all?

- Yes, but the workers are in the ceiling of the second floor, so it is not expected to impact the classrooms.

When repairs are being made, will there be times where the school building must be empty and we will have to revert to virtual learning? Will there be times when both HVAC systems have to be temporarily turned off in order to work on the broken one?

- No.

What if we get to the repair deadline that DGS has set and the 2nd floor HVAC is still not fixed?

- TBD

What supports is DCPS putting in place to support both the teacher who has to move to a new 1st floor classroom and the teacher who that classroom belongs to (how do we manage double the stuff in one room, storage options, etc.)

- [I think this is moot with the current lack of in-person learning so I didn't ask; sorry if I misunderstood anything here.]

Student Activities

Will students get movement breaks? If so, what will that entail?

- Yes, but they will have an X on the floor that they can stand on to do any movement activities.

How is lunch going to be provided to those that eat school lunch? What will the lunch process look like? Will the teacher in the class get any break for lunch separate from the kids? Who fills in?

- It will be an ordering process like PK does normally, where the lunches are made off-site and delivered to the school and then to the rooms.
- CARE teachers will get a lunch break and a respite break when the kids have specials. Details weren't provided on who will fill.

Other Notes

- There are new Intertek machines in every room. (See attached flyer).
- The classroom nearest the office is now an isolation room. It will be staffed by health staff that are being detailed to DCPS and will be used to hold any kids with symptoms until they can be picked up.
 - o The isolation room is getting a phone that can call out, but this hasn't happened yet.
- The detailed health staff will also do temperature screens on the way in and out.
- There will be two entrance points – front and back doors to the atrium – and up to four waves of students arriving between 8a (for CARE kids starting virtual lessons at 830) to 9a (for in-person kids).
 - o They already have social distance markers on the sidewalk and in the atrium. Parents will be able to stay with students as they progress up the front ramp, then turn and walk down the stairs.
 - o They are planning on putting tents over the ramp for when it's raining, but these have not yet been set up yet.
- The room next to the isolation room will be used for kids who are getting picked up (like where their parents are late), but don't have COVID symptoms.
- They have lots of PPE, including face masks for kids and adults (which they will give to anyone who shows up without one or needs one during the day), face shields, gowns, gloves, shoe covers, googles, etc. and plenty of thermometers.
- The nurse will still handle all non-COVID concerns.
 - o Ex. Your kid falls and hurts themselves; they go to the nurse. They start coughing while they're there, they go to the isolation room.
- Clocks/audio still not fixed. They need to replace a computer that has Windows 7 that DCPS won't support any more, then move the software to the new computer, then reprogram everything. That's apparently in progress.
- There are still four smart boards that aren't fully operational. They seem to be working on it.

- They plan on having individual classroom teachers designate the X where each kid can stand when they're not seated at their desk and mark the floor where the desks should stay. This hasn't happened yet.
- The staff breakrooms accommodate three people upstairs (which won't be needed yet) and twelve downstairs (in the old art room).
- They got a bunch of bright colored carpet squares for kids to sit on during circle time. They have not yet been put in rooms.
- They have surge protectors so a number of devices can be plugged in, but do not yet have cord covers for the floor set up.
- They are not yet done cleaning out the cubbies in some of the rooms that will be used for CARE classes.
- Recess will be broken into up to four zones: tot lot, playground, soccer field, and basketball court. That will keep the cohorts from mixing. They will narrow down the zones as needed.
- The playground is being cleaned at the beginning and end of each day.
- The wi-fi has all been checked and works throughout the school.

It was reported that other schools in the Wilson feeder network were having similar levels of readiness.

Back to the RCC discussion: we want to make sure all members of the Hearst community are represented in this process. We will reach out to the CES families, teachers from the older grades and maintenance team members.

(Principal Geoffroy showed a slide deck throughout this meeting. This information can be found at):

<https://dcpsreopenstrong.com/community-corps/>

We went through this information to understand what the baseline expectations will be for reopening.

We scheduled our upcoming meetings for the RCC: December 9, December 16, and January 6.

We reviewed the agendas for the upcoming RCC meetings.

We then had a discussion about "if reopening is successful, what does that look like"?

Students: kids with needs (whatever those needs may be) are prioritized. Keep students going with on-level learning

Staff: want reopening to look and feel organized and transparent. Want everyone on the same page. Want to make reopening joyous but also must have a clear plan to do so. We need clear metrics to guide our work.

Families: want to understand how staffing will work- want to keep teachers with the same students. Want better communications. We all want to approach these decisions with love and empathy. We want to try and repair our community. We want consistency for both staff and our students.

Upcoming survey: DCPS gives a four question template.

Hearst additions: ask what you would want out of a hybrid model, would families return if a hybrid model was offered?

Jen will introduce the RCC at the next PTA meeting to the broader Hearst community.

The LSAT parent members will reach out to all grade levels (and the CES families) for zoom chat sessions. Each grade level and CES will be joined by either Jen or Elke to help facilitate. The goal will be to gather more feedback to bring back to the next RCC meeting.