

COVID-19 INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2020 • 6:30 a.m. • Zoom

Present: Doug Andring, Becky Atkins, Melissa Burkland, Andy Dahlen, Rupak Gandhi, Robert Grosz, Missy Eidsness, Rebecca Folden, Joel Fremstad, Nick Hamilton, Keith Lehman, Shane Martin, Jenifer Mastrud, Mackenzie McCormick, Blake Mikesell, Brenton Nesemeier, Tracie Newman, Payton Thimjon

Absent: none

The meeting began at 6:30 a.m. Future meeting dates of the committee were reviewed; meetings will begin at 6:30 a.m.

Norms for the committee were reviewed and included:

- Begin on time and end on time
- Stay on agenda
- Avoid side conversations
- Respect questions
- Listen respectfully
- Probe ideas; do not criticize people
- Monitor your own airtime
- Assume goodwill
- Speak with one voice after a decision

The committee was reminded of the four guiding principles included in the FPS Smart Restart Plan, which include:

- Ensure the safety and well-being of all students and employees.
- Promote equity and accessibility to learning for all students.
- Provide instructional delivery systems to meet the needs of all students
- Foster positive relationships and interactions

COVID-19 case data was presented by Brenton Nesemeier. The 14-day rolling average of new cases is 68.71 cases; the Cass County positivity rate is 6.8 %. Hospitalizations and death rate data was reviewed, noting:

- COVID related hospitalizations have increased, however, better treatment options are available
- Deaths are lower in Cass County since the first wave (April-June), deaths continue to increase statewide
- Majority of our hospitalized and deceased patients continue to be those with underlying health conditions or residents of long-term care facilities

Using the Minnesota model, Cass County would be at 54.7, which would put Cass County in distance learning for elementary and secondary students.

Active cases by age range were reviewed, noting:

- Highest amongst 20-29-year-old age group
- Second highest group is the 30-39 with 15-19, 40-49 and 50-59 groups being the third highest groupings
- Cases are staying mostly out of the elderly population (>70) with 30 cases

The CDC indicators and thresholds for risk of introduction and transmission of COVID-19 in schools were reviewed.

Doug Andring provided staff absence data. During the week of September 28, eight staff members tested positive for COVID-19. As of October 2, 11 staff members were out due to a positive test result. For the week of September 28, 21.76 % of substitute teacher positions went unfilled.

Mackenzie McCormick presented FPS student COVID-19 case data. For the week of September 28, two students tested positive for COVID-19. As of October 2, nine students were out of school due to a positive test result. The data reviewed excluded students in the Virtual Academy. As of October 2, 150 students were in quarantine due to being deemed a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case, including household close contacts or contacts outside of school.

Each committee member was provided an opportunity to share information with the committee. Some committee members shared data collected from colleagues or other sources.

Discussion occurred on the instructional plan levels for Fargo Public Schools and timing for implementation of any change. Upon conclusion of discussion, committee members voted on decisions for the instructional plan levels by program level.

A majority of committee members voted to have elementary students transition to Level 4 – In-person Instruction on October 19 (Yes: Andring, Burkland, Dahlen, Eidsness, Fremstad, Gandhi, Grosz, McCormick, Mikesell, Nesemeier, Newman; No: Atkins, Folden, Hamilton, Lehman, Mastrud, Martin, Thimjon,). The in-person instruction would be four days per week with one day of distance learning.

The committee members unanimously voted to have middle and high school students transition to Level 3 – Hybrid Learning on October 19 on a A/B/A/B rotation with Friday's of distance learning.

Discussion occurred on the start date of October 19 for the change due to that week being a short, three-day week for the District. A majority of committee members voted to transition elementary to Level 4 on October 26 instead of October 19 (Yes: Eidsness, Folden, Fremstad, Grosz, Hamilton, Lehman, Mastrud, Martin, McCormick, Nesemeier, Thimjon; No: Andring, Atkins, Burkland, Dahlen, Gandhi, Mikesell, Newman).

Therefore, the COVID-19 Instructional Plan Committee decided:

Elementary Schools: Level 4 – In-Person Instruction Beginning October 26

Middle Schools: Level 3 – Hybrid Learning Beginning October 19

High Schools: Level 3 – Hybrid Learning Beginning October 19

The next committee meeting was confirmed for October 19. The meeting concluded at 8:00 a.m.