

DLT Meeting

June 22, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Clemons welcomed everyone, noting that as the 2019-20 school year ends, division leaders will have little down time going into the 2020-21 school year. Plans for the re-opening of schools need to be carefully considered, with survey results vetted as part of the process. Dr. Clemons hopes to have preliminary guidance available to staff and families by early July, but is cautious not to make an announcement before all options have been carefully considered.

Virginia may soon be in Phase 3, which will allow for gatherings of up to 250 people, and could be in an even less restrictive phase by September. However, social distancing will still be needed and a hybrid model for providing instruction will most likely be in place at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. The division is in the process of developing a health plan, which will need to be submitted to VDOE. Distancing and sanitation will need to occur both on school buses as well as in classrooms, cafeterias, etc. Dr. Clemons added that divisions may submit a variance to the guidance from the state, however in doing so would need to confer with legal guidance, the local health department, and the risk management insurer. Phase 3 would not include having all students return every day, but would most likely have an alternating schedule of in school and on-line instruction. Jimmy Viars (Grounds Foreman) questioned when athletic fields could be used. Dr. Clemons indicated it would be part of the health plan, which needs to be reviewed by the VDOE at least one day prior to implementation.

Bryan Hartley (Director of Operations) provided an overview of the health plan, which lists Lisa Jones (GCPS Division Nurse Coordinator) as the point of contact for GCPS. Part I of the plan requires guidance from the local health department, addresses absenteeism, hygiene, and medication administration. Mrs. Jones prepared draft letters to be sent to families in the event any cases of COVID-19 occur in our schools. For tracking purposes, Mrs. Jones also stressed the importance of electronic documentation of symptom monitoring in the buildings. Part II of the plan addresses signage, communication with students and staff, promoting physical distancing and adequate supplies. To maintain social distancing, 42 square feet is needed per child, which would equate to approximately 14 people per classroom, contingent upon adhering to capacity guidelines. Eating in classrooms could be a possibility, but would require additional custodial services. Mr. Hartley added that cleaning and disinfecting would need to be a collective effort requiring everyone. If Phase 3 begins, we may also begin utilizing the cafeteria with appropriate spacing. Two new modules pertaining to COVID 19,

will be included in the required safe schools modules and will need to be completed by twelve month staff prior to July 1 and all staff before returning to work. Dr. Clemons stressed it is imperative that 100% of our staff complete the Safe Schools modules, now more than ever.

Students may be screened for symptoms on the bus, but it would be a huge undertaking, with limited equipment, and must be documented. Air quality was discussed. HEPA filters will not be an option with the systems in place; however, other methods may be used to bring in more fresh air. Field trips may need to be eliminated at this time and any events would only be able to be held with 30-50% capacity.

Provisions will need to be in place for students and staff who are at risk. Return to work/school guidelines may require an employee or student to be out of work/school for 72 hours after the employee or anyone in his/her household shows no symptoms or requires no medication to reduce a fever. Virtual learning and modified job duties where possible may be needed. Substitute staff will also need to be properly trained under the new guidelines.

Tanya Deckard (Transportation Director) indicated her staff is planning for various scenarios to transport students in 20-21. In addition, inspection check lists will be on all buses for drivers to utilize. Under the current guidelines, Mrs. Deckard expects 13-14 students will be the maximum number on most buses, depending on sibling scenarios. Dr. Clemons added that concrete information will be needed from families to know which students will be riding the buses to and from school and which will be dropped off and picked up. Mrs. Deckard mentioned that some localities are using Public Service Announcement videos to help prepare students and families for what school will look like in the fall. Mrs. Deckard is also working to fill vacant positions in the transportation department, mainly due to retirements.

Mrs. Jones discussed changes that will need to occur in the clinics, such as more children being sent home, staggering medication times, restricting guest use of clinic restrooms, and not permitting students in the clinic, except for illness. In addition, staff will need to be fitted for personal protective equipment. Mrs. Jones noted that students will be carriers of the virus more than they will actual become sick from it. Dr. Clemons would like to have the Health Plan submitted to VDOE by early July. Gloria Williams (Community Engagement Coordinator), offered the assistance of coordinators in her department to help with safety modules or where needed.

Potential hybrid schedules for 20-21 were discussed. Dr. Clemons believes some will prefer to stay home if they aren't coming back to a full schedule, and stated however that we can't

afford to lose those students. Eileen Kersmarki (Bethel Principal) expressed concerns about teachers with school aged children. Members also asked if students could be required to commit to the method of instruction being received for at least a quarter at a time. Dr. Wagner plans to have some absolutes, but will also need to work with families. Students with disabilities and some others, may need to be in the building daily. Dr. Clemons plans to have a framework in place by early July and mentioned that certain activities, such as band, help to keep students motivated. Canvas will be the platform used by all staff for online learning. Members stressed that an enhanced version of what was done in the spring will be necessary.

Both Dr. Clemons and Dr. Wagner expressed their appreciation to DLT members for all that is being done.

Adjourned – 12:33 p.m.