

Special Business Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 5:00 PM
Online Meeting

1) **Call to Order and Roll Call**

2) **Adoption of Agenda**

3) **New Business**

a. In-Person Learning Option for PreK-5th Grade

4) **Adjournment**

SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
Board of Education

January 19, 2021

Supporting an In-Person Learning Option for PreK-5th Grade

WHEREAS, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz has asked school districts to prioritize an in-person learning option for elementary students; and

WHEREAS, attendance, academic, and social and emotional well-being information about our students warrants offering this option; and

WHEREAS, distance learning will remain an option for students as long as authorized by the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, all required local, state, and federal health and safety measures will be in place; and

WHEREAS, proposed plans for in-person learning have been reviewed by a Regional Support Team comprised of officials from the Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Department of Health and Minneapolis Health Department; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that health and operational circumstances may change quickly and therefore modifications may be required.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Special School District No. 1, hereby supports the proposed plan and direction for providing an in-person learning option for MPS elementary students, within the parameters allowed by executive order and applicable guidelines.

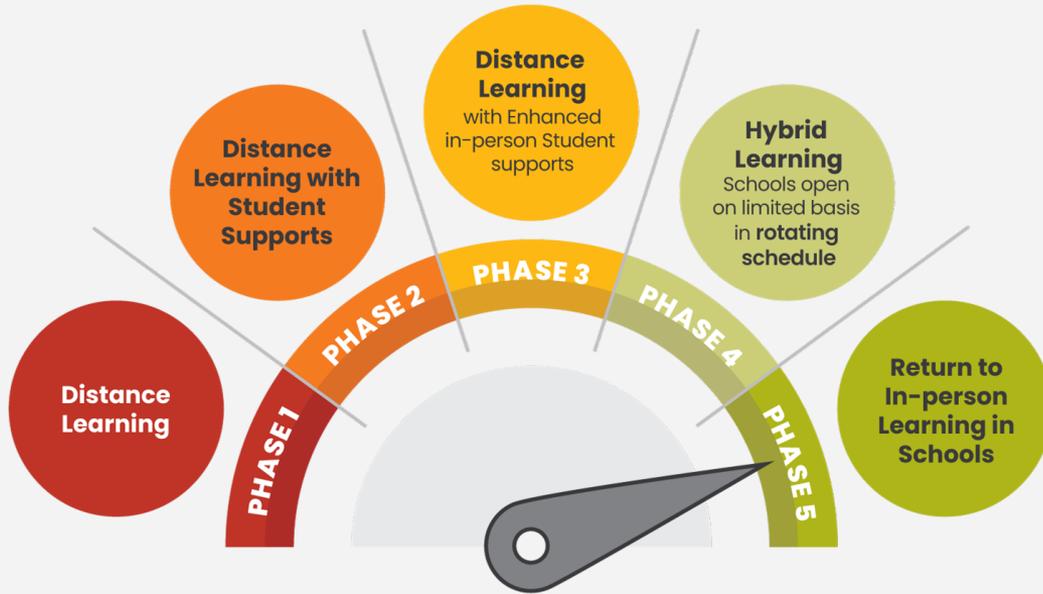
Signed by:

Kim Ellison
Board of Education Chair

Date

Josh Pauly
Board of Education Clerk

Date



Special Board of Education Meeting

January 19, 2021

Superintendent's Update

Health Update

COVID Case Data

- Minnesota Cumulative Positive Cases: 448,268
- City of Minneapolis Positive Case Data: 36.2 per 10,000 (January 11th)
(38.3 per 10,000 on January 8th)
(30.3 per 10,000 on January 1st)
- All demographics are in the 30 to 50 cases, which is a reduction for our Black and Latinex communities.
- All demographics are holding stable or declining in the trend data

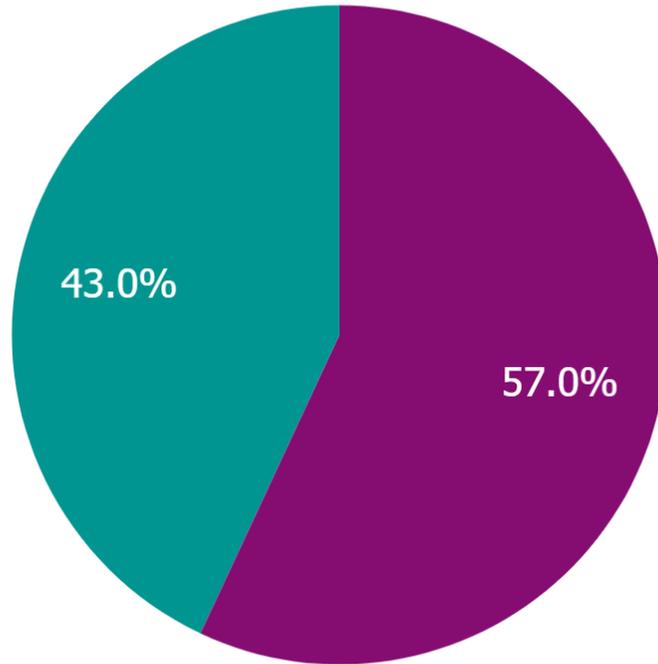
In-Person/Distance Learning Registrations

Current Registration Status -- Total Numbers

- 16,341 elementary students (12,000 in traditional elementary schools and another 4,000 in K-8 buildings)
- Registration form sent Friday, Jan. 8
- **REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED TO DATE: 10,420 (63%)**

Current Registration Status -- In-person vs. distance learning

PreK-5 Enrollment Decisions as of 1/19/21 (N = 10,420)



Note: Percentages based on data downloaded at 10 a.m., Jan. 19, for 10,420 students.

● Will attend school in-person ● Will continue in distance learning

Current Registration Status -- Student Demographics

PreK-5 Enrollment Decisions as of 1/19/2021

Race/Ethnicity	Number of In Person Responses	In person- % of all students	In person- % of completed forms	Number of Distance Learning Responses	Distance Learning- % of all students	Distance Learning- % of completed forms	Number of Forms Not Completed	No Responses- % of all students	Number of completed forms	% of forms completed	Total Students
AFRICAN AMER	1700	29.7%	53.6%	1472	25.7%	46.4%	2561	44.7%	3172	55.3%	5733
AMER INDIAN	114	20.9%	44.7%	141	25.8%	55.3%	291	53.3%	255	46.7%	546
ASIAN	299	30.8%	41.1%	428	44%	58.9%	245	25.2%	727	74.8%	972
HISPANIC	882	32.3%	49.2%	911	33.4%	50.8%	934	34.3%	1793	65.8%	2727
WHITE	2942	46.2%	65.8%	1531	24.1%	34.3%	1890	29.7%	4473	70.3%	6363

Registration Push

- **Participated in community-sponsored forum** on Friday, January 15th
- **Drop-in form completion meetings** by cultural/language communities through Jan. 22 deadline
- **Email, robocall, text templates** to schools
- **Schools encouraged to contact** unregistered students/families
- **Social/digital/radio push** through deadline

Overview of Daily Experience for In-Person Learning

Systems and Structures

- **Start of Day -**
 - Arrival - Student arrival procedures to maintain distancing. Staff on hand to greet students.
 - Bus Protocols - Assigned seats. Attendance taken. Face coverings required.
 - Breakfast - Taken to classroom.
- **Classroom Setup -**
 - Space for individual student belongings and materials.
 - Distancing of students by 3 feet and 6 feet for adults.
- **Movement Breaks/Recess -** Provide movement while maintaining distance. Face covers required.
- **Lunch -** Eaten in classrooms or lunchroom, depending on space.
- **Bathroom Breaks -** In classroom or other designated restrooms.
- **Dismissal -**
 - Students escorted to buses or designated pick up areas.
 - Face coverings required.

Additional Academic Updates

Daily Schedule

- **School schedules, virtual or in person, should follow MDE** instructional requirements and all contractual agreements.
- Each day should include:
 - Morning Meeting/Welcoming Activity
 - Literacy Block
 - Math Block
 - Social Emotional Learning
 - Lunch/Recess
 - Specialist (Art, Music, Physical Education, Media)
 - Science and Social Studies (may rotate during the week)
 - Time for movement breaks throughout the day

Physical Education and Visual Art

Physical Education

- Can be held indoors outside of individual classrooms so long as students and staff are wearing face coverings.
- Students will not be using equipment that would be passed or shared between multiple students throughout a class period.
- Each student will be assigned to their own piece of equipment for the class period and the equipment will be properly disinfected between class periods.

Visual Art

- Art classes may continue to be held indoors outside of the individual classrooms if they are able to follow the guidance on music activities and performance guidance. No sharing of materials between students.

Music

Music

- Students try to maintain at least 6 feet of separation when singing, moving or performing on instruments; face in one direction rather than facing each other.
- Teachers teach from students' homeroom classrooms for music class (music on a cart). If it is not possible, students remain as a "cohort" or group when attending music class in the music classroom. (No mixing sections)

Instrumental Music:

- Small group pull-out lessons continued with students from same cohort or classroom outside of the homeroom space. Students will not be pulled for lessons from multiple cohorts or classrooms. Instrumental music can continue in a virtual format if unable to keep students in their cohorts or unable to move from the homeroom space.
- Students should be masked at all times OR utilizing a specific musical instrument mask or shield if they are playing a wind instrument.
- Musical instrument PPE has been ordered for students that play a wind instrument. This includes: equipment such as bell covers, flute shields, and slitted masks designed for playing instruments needs to be considered important for safe instrumental play to proceed.
- NO SHARING OF INSTRUMENTS, with the exception of percussion supplies. Occasionally, percussionists will need to share mallets / sticks/ equipment. IF they must share, mallets and sticks must be disinfected with the district approved disinfectant provided to schools.
- If able continue to maintain at least 6 feet of separation for stringed and percussion instruments. If able, wind instruments and trombone players should utilize 9 feet of separation.

Support Programs

- Special education, English Learner and counseling may continue to pull students from their primary classrooms in order to provide these essential support services.
- Groups should be kept as small as possible and as consistent as possible from day to day and as much physical distance as possible should be maintained between group members.
- For small group learning and one on one instruction, students will be sitting at least 3 feet apart, wearing face coverings (if able) and adults will be provided with plastic desk top shields.

Other Operational Updates

Vaccination update

- Vaccinations for **Group 1a continues** across the state
- Additional doses allocated to pilot vaccination clinics for education and for child care workers
 - Prek - grade 12 school staff
 - State guidance on prioritization within this broad group of essential employees
 - Occupational risk of exposure
 - Descending age
- **86 doses** allotted to MPS in first pilot
 - MPS is starting with employees working in person providing direct support for **essential child care**

Air Handling Mitigations

- MPS air filtration mitigations exceeds MDH requirements
 - All filters upgraded to MERV 14 or HEPA filters provided
 - Increased ventilation system operation
- HEPA filters sized for our classrooms
- Concerns over fan noise/volume
 - HEPA filters can be placed anywhere in room, furthest from instruction
 - [Classroom audio enhancement](#)

Leaves and Accommodations

Update on Leaves & Accommodations

- Team working through ADA accommodation and FMLA leave requests steadily worked to process all requests received.
- Last week initial eligibility determinations made and this week the interactive process continues to determine appropriate accommodations.
- Internal staff have been joined by outside contractors helping expedite communications with our employees while ensuring we are following the process.
- A detailed FAQ was posted on the District's intranet on Friday and a copy of the link was emailed to all staff who received a return to in-person work letter.
- As of Friday January 15th, there were 115 applications qualified and being processed. 200 applications were incomplete, and 30 applications are not ADA qualified.

Discussion