

Reviewed by the Policy Subcommittee on 7/9/20 to Report Back to the School Committee on 7/15/20

Motion: Vote to recommend that the School Committee refer the document to the Superintendent for incorporation into the District's return to school plan.

Roll Call Vote: 4-0 (Yes: Ms. Hugo, Mr. Epstein, Ms. Maskell, Ms. Barnhill)

Draft for consideration submitted by Adam Freudberg - 6/30/20

With the natural absence of School Committee policy on how to reopen during a pandemic, I submit this for consideration during July meetings to get the conversation started on if and how the School Committee could adopt goals on the reopening topic.

School Reopening Goals: Ten Core Principles by the Framingham School Committee

Our district is committed to creating a safe and supportive school and district culture for students and adults. Our district is committed to teaching all students, regardless of the instructional setting. This will require careful planning and consideration to ensure we equitably plan for addressing the needs of English learners, students with disabilities, and students from low-income households.

1. Health and Wellness of Students, Staff, and Their Families are the Top Priority

- FPS coordination with the Department of Public Health and Board of Health
- Development of multi-tiered system of supports:
 - COVID-19 prevention measures
 - Addressing social emotional and mental health needs
 - Focusing on relationships and transitions
 - Preparing for increased potential for trauma
 - Physical and psychological safety implications and preparation
 - Continuing the curriculum, while seeking more time for recess and outdoor time, especially in the first quarter of the school year
 - Extra curricular and athletic activities are a vital component of addressing the social and emotional needs of our students

2. Equity, Flexibility, Understanding, Health, and Human Decency are the Core Principles Behind All Decisions

- Strive to not create a divide or stigma for a cohort physically in school learning, and a cohort at home due to family/student health or other reasons
- Additional focus needed around the needs of English learners, students with disabilities, and students from low-income households
- Commit to bargain in good faith with employee unions, focus on professional development opportunities, and employee health and wellbeing. We understand we are all in this together from a place of positive intent

3. Infrastructure Upgrades Need to Be Addressed

- HVAC and Ventilation Systems Upgrades/Air Filters
- Windows need the ability to safely open
- Explore tents and furniture for outdoor classes

4. Public Health Protocols Must Be Understood and Respected

- Seek for COVID-19 Compliance and Safety Directors to be assigned for every school
- Cleaning and sanitation procedures outlined in writing and video for public
- Better understanding needed on DESE three feet physical distancing language, movements around rooms, and best teaching practices
- EEE prevention measures (work with staff and families to authorize bug spray usage at schools, support state legislation to allow schools to be part of outdoor spraying prevention measures)
- Compliance with state-mandated immunizations, and collaborations with the Board of Health on providing flu vaccine resources to the school community
- COVID-19 Testing
 - Where to go, what to do, what information school communities must be told, and what they can tell to balance personal privacy and transparency must be clearly known to all families

5. Transportation Must Be Adequate and Viable

- School bus transportation is a right for students under current policy with criteria, and that policy remains a goal pending the availability of new funding for the forthcoming DESE COVID-19 bus rules
- Drivers start dates to be moved up and they will be paid to practice new routes for multiple days before school begins
- Bus tracking app to be made available

6. Observance of Safe Practices and Preventative Measures is Critical to Staying Open

- Roll out a short and simple new FPS list of core return to school norms to stress public health and other key behaviors needed by all

7. We Must Take Our Time to Do This Right

- Don't rush back to school planning decisions. Wait for community and staff inputs, webinars, individual school community discussions, individual student case management, etc. Then issue a plan for families to respond to.

8. We Must Be Fiscally Responsible

- We value our system of education, so we invest where we must to concurrently keep the community safe, and our students educated
- Strategically utilize new federal and state funding, and apply for COVID-19 government impact grants from DESE and others as often as possible

9. We Believe in Keeping Your Current School

- Any student whose family chooses remote learning versus in person learning shall have their spot in their current school held for the start of the 2021-22 school year

10. Customer Service Needs to Be Respectful and Responsive

- There will be a lot of questions. Beyond the website FAQ, each school and the Central Office must have a coordinated approach to answer any and all inquiries and ensure there is follow up