

**ALLIANCE FOR HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION
COVID-19 Committee
Conference Call**

**July 21, 2020
10:00 A.M.
MEETING SUMMARY**

In attendance on phone conference: Tony Podojil, Jessica Voltolini, and member representatives from 31 school districts.

Tony Podojil convened the meeting by phone conference at 10:00 a.m.

ODE Stakeholder Call –

Tony reminded members the State Superintendent had suspended, for the time being, his weekly calls addressing COVID19 and restart issues.

State Health Requirements – COVID19

- State COVID Color Coding System
- Fall Sports and Band Program Student Activities – OHSAA

Questions and Comments:

Q. I would be interested in knowing what thought processes people are using related to how they are using the state's COVID color-coding system. How or if, it is being considered when making decisions about reopening for next year?

A. Sycamore shared that it is struggling with what level of influence the coding system will have since they are already in red. There is some consensus around the County that if they go purple, then they would go full remote. The issue related to the red level is that our localized data that we get by zip code looks dramatically different from the County information. We have talked with public health officials and doctors from Children's Hospital and they have been reluctant to recommend a specific metric to use in terms of number of the number cases triggering a decision. We're forming a data review team which would include public health officials and medical professionals to look at that weekly data when it's posted in the County and if any trends can be identified and help us in making decisions as we go forward. For next year, we're going to recommend a face to face model, we've got a virtual classroom option for our students because we just completed a data surveying of our community over the weekend and we've got upwards of 30% of our families requesting a virtual option. The plan is to bring everybody back 5 days a week.

Loveland shared they plan to come back full-time but the board is thinking blended or full remote due to staffing concerns.

Forest Hills shared that they would offer a five-day traditional school day with the virtual option. The blended is probably something that they will not offer unless something dramatically changes. They will

go with virtual because it provides some distance options within the building and helps those teachers who are unable to attend because of their own health issues. If they get to the purple level, they will probably not have school and will go full remote, but the kids who have chosen virtual will stay in the virtual model. Virtual has some curricular components with some software that is going to be a little bit different, the remote is kind of a package they are putting together.

Some districts are still in the process of surveying parents and staff to see who is coming back to school and what is best for them. Some districts are purchasing learning plans that can be turned into customized courses. Some districts are not going to be able to have a third-party provider because parents want the same access to teachers and curriculum as if they were at the school. Storage of furniture is an issue for some districts. Staffing is an issue in in-person instruction as well as remote.

Anthony Wayne shared most of the districts in their area, with a couple of exceptions, are utilizing a hybrid model to start the school year. Based on a conversation with the local health department they have shared that cases are increasing. Several athletes, coaches, players, and others are already on self-quarantine, so the district sees this as a major concern moving forward. They are using the color-coded system to help communicate with parents. If we are in yellow as a County our plan is to be all in. If we are in orange or red, we are planning to use hybrid and when in purple, we are going remote, split by last name. 50% Tuesday and Wednesday for one group. Thursday and Friday for the other group, with Monday having no students present, on those days. Blended learning will be taking place through Google Classroom and other mechanisms.

Fall Sports and Band Program Student Activities – OHSAA

Tony reached out to OHSAA after last week's call and he is still awaiting a response back. Tony will let members know when he is able to talk with someone and provide an update.

Q. How is everybody handling, if you are in hybrid model, your outside activities?

North Royalton shared they are using the color system when making decisions related to extra-curricular programs unless the guidance changes.

Revere's concern is how are we allowing contact sports to even be practicing if we are in the hybrid level of being mandatory six-foot social distancing. We are having internal conflicts on why it is OK on the practice field but not OK in schools.

Some districts have decided if they are online, no sports at all. Based on the level or stage of the color code the students may only be allowed to continue to work out and practice at a safe distance with no competition.

Q. Has anyone been able to get from their health Department any guidance on what the tipping point for a school district or a school will be for the number of active COVID cases that would require a movement from in person to remote learning?

A. Twinsburg shared that they are anticipating the health department in her area releasing flowcharts with guidance related to the coding system.

Districts, in general, are concerned that districts seem to be moving forward in several different directions and this may be confusing and difficult to communicate to parents and students. Staffing remains a major concern with districts having significant numbers of staff wanting to start fully remote while others willing to return face-to-face instruction. Some districts are having to use other buildings for lower grades in order to have them at school all day and then providing the upper grades with hybrid or remote learning.

ODE Guidance Documents

- Remote Learning Attendance Guidance (Released)
- Transportation Guidance (Follow-up)
- Preschool Issues (Current Restrictions)

Remote Learning Attendance Guidance:

The Remote Learning Attendance Guidance was released and was sent to members through email. Please send any questions to Tony or Jessica.

Transportation Guidance (Follow-up)

Tony spoke to Scott Hunt who stated that it is the districts responsibility to follow the current rules and guidelines in terms of transporting parochial, charter and private schools. If your district is closed on certain days but private schools are open, districts may still have to provide transportation for the schools that are open.

Preschool Issues - (Current Restrictions)

There have not been any updates released related to the preschool issues discussed earlier. Jessica will send out updates as she receives them.

Funding

- CARES ACT additional Fund Distribution

Districts were sent a spreadsheet containing information on the additional fund distributions based on the CARES Act which those funds are to cover PPE supplies.

Next Conference Call:

The next call will be **July 28, 2020, at 10 AM by phone conference, if needed.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.