

PANDEMIC RESPONSE COMMITTEE

February 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE (Online)

Administration: H. Beirne, R. Ciottariello, T. Claeys, R. Cline, P. DiRupo, S. Gales, C. Kisatsky, and D. Reynolds

Faculty & Staff: C. Bresney, C. Bunting, B. Bennington, C. Ely, A. Grillo, J. Hofer, L. Mihatov, D. Miller, and W. Pickett

Parents: L. Canfield & K. Cherry

Food Service: M. Azzopardi

PURPOSE: To raise discussion regarding the possibility of beginning full-day instruction.

As we entered into the third marking period, nearby schools began to announce their intentions to begin full-day classes for students, which began inquiries by our school community if we were considering the same course of action. The Pandemic Response Committee (PRC) was called together to consider the topic. Those present were agreeable to looking into the feasibility of having students on campus all day.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Poll the community to gauge sentiments and forecast logistical implications (such as social distance, bussing, and lunches) for full-day instruction.
2. Schedule PRC brainstorming session, February 11, 2021 for discussion by the PRC.
3. Launch survey
4. Collect data and analysis
5. Convene PRC to review

Should the possibility not receive support, then the school year would conclude using the current, half-day, hybrid model with its alternating days for each cohort to be on campus.

Should interest dictate interest in full-day learning, the next meeting of the PRC will refine the course of action.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE COMMITTEE

February 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE

Administration: H. Beirne, R. Ciottariello, T. Claeys, R. Cline, P. DiRupo, S. Gales, C. Kisatsky, and D. Reynolds
Faculty & Staff: C. Bresney, C. Bunting, B. Bennington, C. Ely, A. Grillo, J. Hofer, L. Mihatov, D. Miller, and W. Pickett
Parents: L. Canfield & K. Cherry
Food Service: M. Azzopardi

PURPOSE: Brainstorming session for moving to full-day instruction.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: Our goal is to attempt full-day schooling, as other schools in our area are moving to a return of students to campus.

Forty-seven school days until June 4th (projected last day of school)

Eight-period day, rotating A/B cohorts, or students may opt to remain/become virtual

Possible to do one day per week where everyone is virtual

If many students are returning, may need to create an additional cohort in order to maintain low numbers in classrooms, social distancing measures

The Survey:

Sent by Guidance Department

Asking Families to respond no later than end of February.

If a decision to full-day instruction is reached, the PRC will begin putting plans in place to begin Monday, March 22nd. Otherwise, the half-day schedule will continue for the remainder of the year.

Lunches:

To be provided for all students – cold, brown bag (no hot lunch service)

Social distancing in the café – desks not tables, six feet of distance between each

Additional time built in between lunches allowing custodial staff to thoroughly sanitize

CONCERNS:

There would be thirty contact days (spring break, finals) before the end of the year; this change would be a lot of work for short period of time

Internal logistics, including: staff with young children who are not returning to their own schools and the need for coverage and substitutes.

Fatigue of increased screen time and wearing of masks all day

Social dynamics of the school would change little in that students would still be separated from their friends (A/B cohorts, unable to socialize in commons, café).

The need for additional cohorts

FOLLOW-UP: The PRC will gather at a convenient time once the survey collection period has expired.