

ACPS Parent Council Minutes November 17, 2021

Attendees: Dr. Debbie-Ann Shirley, Dr. Jeff Vergales, and Dr. Emily Wong (Presenters)
Sam P (Agnor Hurt), Patrick McLaughlin, Kimberly Dowdell (SPES), Lauren Martinez (Monticello), Mathew Hass, Leah Shiraishi (Stone Robinson), Danny Wysong (Crozet), Kari Hurst (Broadus Wood), Sarah Harris (WAHS), Abbe Macbeth (Walton MS), Julie Teman (Brownsville), Dana Griffin (Woodbrook ES), Dana Griffin (Woodbrook), Sharon Fix (Burley MS), Heidi Gilman Bennett (Lab School MS), Ali Miller (Henley MS), Jude Christian (Community Lab HS), Alice Fox (SEAC), Maggie Valentine (Meriwether)

- Minutes from September were approved.
- FHF Update was given (see full update in meeting follow-up email).

Presenters: Dr. Debbie-Ann Shirley, Dr. Jeff Vergales, and Dr. Emily Wong

Topic: COVID-19, Flu, Vaccine Questions

What do we know so far about the COVID-19 Vaccine (especially for kids)?

- Local vaccination program is going great so far
- Very large clinical trials were done to study the vaccine in children- phase 1 is making sure it is safe, phase 2 is focused on finding the right dose, phase 3 is to show it's effectiveness
- Approved by FDA and then goes to CDC to review for public safety
- 3 main systems used to monitor vaccine safety on an ongoing basis
- Millions of doses of vaccine have been used in the US and around the world- lots of safety data available
- At some point there will be data available for the 2-5 age group, data has been sent to the FDA on this

Results for the Pfizer trial-

- Vaccine was shown to be safe and well tolerated, most common side effect was pain and soreness in the arm
- A few children had fever and tiredness but this was very limited
- Pediatric formulation is $\frac{1}{3}$ of the adult dose
- No serious adverse events or myocarditis detected
- Robust antibody responses
- Pfizer- 91% effective at protection children against symptomatic virus

Should parents change anything about their precautions and risk-mitigation strategies now that vaccines are available for 5-11 children?

- A lot comes down to personal risk
- Some activities are low-risk but not thought of as low-risk (such as playdates and sleepovers with only a small number)
- Getting vaccinated will reduce anxiety which is beneficial for mental health
- Continue to follow the CDC guidelines
- It is important to balance the risk vs the benefit of the activity- for example, in-person school is a huge benefit to kids and often outweighs the risk
- Look at local community risk (currently high in our area)
- Our local cases are starting to decline due to getting past the Delta surge but they are increasing in many parts of the country and could increase over the winter as well

Will boosters be recommended for kids?

- The data doesn't really exist yet to know if there is a benefit to boosters as there is for adults
- Once the 12-17 age group is studied, that will help to inform decisions about the younger ages

How will community transmission and more kids getting vaccinated impact school policies?

- We will be conservative in our area about rolling back policies
- We saw encouraging data that the mitigation strategies were effective
- It will be a while until we know what can be rolled back
- We have to balance physical health with mental health needs and concerns when making policy changes
- It will not make sense to change policies until the community transmission is low

Testing access is getting better.

- Test to stay programs are being evaluated- they might be implemented in Virginia and they are working to draft what that would look like starting January 1st
- Policies would not start to be changed until there is *low* community transmission which we are not at currently

How are we prepared to fight a flu epidemic as well as COVID?

- Get the flu vaccine as soon as possible
- They have started to see positive test results for flu in undergrads and young children
- Flu and covid can be tested with the same swab
- Be sure to test for covid as well as flu if your kid has symptoms- they can look the same!
- Most covid cases are adult to child- not true with flu
- Schools are drivers of flu spread in the community- it is very different from covid
- Fomite transmission is much bigger with flu and rsv and that is why even people that are taking precautions are still getting these other viruses.

COVID UPDATE from Dr. McLaughlin

- We came from high to moderate but have now been stuck in moderate for some time

Breakout Room: Ideas to increase diversity in PTSO-

- Bring in guest speakers
- Focus on creating a student platform through the PTSO
- Connect with key individuals at school to help invite more families
- Breaking up the job responsibilities of the PTSO jobs so individuals can contribute with minimal time commitment
- Introduce the JEDI role in your PTSO
- School hosted listening groups to engage more communities

Superintendent Update

- Anyone is welcome to work with and support the Anti-racism committee- contact them directly for more information
- Vaccine rates continue to be strong- kids aged 5-11 were already at 5% having received at least one dose just a couple of days after first availability.
- Culture Survey-
 - Just finished the student survey and will soon have the results available for the public
 - Parent version of the survey will go out in the Spring
 - Demographics of students that responded match the demographics of the community so they feel the data is very representative
- Efforts to make grading policies more equitable and focused on representing student learning
- Secretary for January Meeting: Danny Wysong- Crozet Elementary