

3/11/21 Community Forum

Questions	Answers
Is changing the remote schedule AGAIN for less than three months of school, really worth it to get elementary school kids in the building for 4 hours hours?	Yes, we've been asked to increase in-person learning time.
What needs to be in place for students to return to the regular dismissal time (2:15pm)?	School Staff need to be only teaching one way - remote or in-person....that is the main reason they need more time at this point.
What changes need to be made to increase in person learning at the middle/high school level?	More staff and more space.
What will it take to allow parents to watch school sporting events?	Live streaming is available. Seating capacity is determined by the governor, which is capped at 50 right now.
Do the new indoor seating guidelines from the Governor impact schools and mean more students are permitted in classrooms?	No. We are still mandated to have three feet between students when seated and six feet when eating.
Now that the decision has been made to return on Wednesdays at elementary schools--will it remain that way for the rest of the year, or is there any chance that it will go back to being a remote day?	No plans to go back to remote except if we have students or staff who need to quarantine or if we don't have enough staff to hold in-person learning.
What options for extra space are being considered to increase in person learning at the middle/high school level?	Using gyms for classrooms, more outdoors and trailers. If needed for Sept. -- renting empty buildings and portables.
What is the timeline to increase in person learning at the middle/high school level?	We will be posting for additional staff beginning tomorrow and looking at how to find additional rooms for classrooms.
What supports will be in place for elementary students who will be transitioning to the middle school in the fall (ex. Visits to the new school, step up day, etc)	Plans just being discussed. We could do virtual tours, summer tours or open houses, part of our summer programming, hold summer camps for

Is there a plan for graduations? (6th/8th/12th)	We are just beginning to talk about this. MDOE Graduation Requirements
I understand this is a challenging situation but why haven't these options been considered before now (ex. Having MS/HS students eating lunch in their classroom)?	We have desks at 3 ft apart in classrooms to fit in as many students as possible, but students need to be six feet apart to eat / be without masks. We do not have additional people to be in additional classrooms. We can't find subs.
If the MS/HS had enough space, would they be back in the building for in person learning 5 days a week?	Space <i>and</i> teachers / staff.
What is being done to increase the outdoor education opportunities for students at all levels?	We have tents, picnic tables, and tarps. We just need the weather to warm up.
As teachers receive the vaccine - how will this change the policy around staff quarantine? CDC policy states people exposed to covid who are vaccinated do not need to quarantine.	We follow the Maine CDC guidelines, so once teachers are 14 days beyond their final vaccine, they will not need to quarantine. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html
CDC defines close contact as more than 15 minutes within 6 feet from someone with COVID. Is that what the school is using for a definition? There was recently a large number of classrooms who had to quarantine at HSES due to exposure to by a staff person. Did 125+ students really meet this criteria or did the school use a different criteria? How did you determine which students met this criteria (ie. look at attendance reports on who was in the class for the day,, inquire if the potential quarantine individual recently had covid or has been vaccinated -which would exempt them from quarantine? Are teachers/staff coming within 6 feet of students for more than 15 min often?	ME CDC -- In general, a close contact is defined as someone with exposure to the confirmed or probable case within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more (cumulatively in one day) regardless if individuals were wearing face coverings. To help protect students in the school and out of an abundance of caution, Maine CDC considers everyone within a classroom to be close contacts. All student close contacts of positive cases must remain in quarantine for at least 10 full days following their last exposure to the confirmed case. In a school setting, close contacts may range from an entire classroom to the entire school, depending on the number and location of confirmed cases (see Table 1 below).
What is the thinking for whether there will be a "full remote"	For some students, remote learning has been very successful.

option for next year?? Would it be based on “medical” reasons with a doctor’s note? There are high school students out working the full 20 hours a week, yet are doing full remote. Our schools cannot run as a “correspondence” school.	Educators across the country are discovering that there are a variety of ways to educate students.
Can 7th and 8th graders all be there on Wednesday, when 5% is not so they have 3 days	There are too many students and too few teachers to bring in all 7th & 8th grade students at one time.

Questions Asked During the Meeting

When kids are remote, why can’t they just learn synchronously? Zoom into the classes when they are being held.	Some teachers do this. Some are not comfortable doing this. Attendance has been an issue for those teachers holding synchronous classes.
What is the plan to increase Social Emotional Learning supports?	We are working on assessing needs to begin the fall with our SEL curriculum in place for all students K - grade 8.
Can you help me understand how the decision was arrived at to bring 5th graders in 4 days per week instead of 8th graders. My reasoning is 8th graders only have 4 years to ‘catch up’ on any deficits and 5th graders have 7 to ‘catch up.’	At MVMS grade 5 & 6 are smaller than grade 7th & 8th. We could bring in all 5th & 6th grade students but could not add in any more students with spacing requirements.
What changes to grade level curriculum do you anticipate moving forward as a result of the reduction in instruction time over the past year?	MDOE suggests we start out the year with appropriate grade-level standards/materials and provide interventions as new learning takes place, and targeted instruction in summer programs.
Have you been able to get any ideas from other school districts who are able to provide in person 5 days a week?	Not many districts are 5 days per week for all buildings. This is happening at many elementary schools but ms/hs is a challenge.
Before decisions are made that adjust the daily work and schedules, could school board members meet with staff?	
If more kids are coming in, how are you keeping students safe on busses?	We may have to go to double runs. Or add another bus for a crowded run.

