

Nimble Committee Meeting Notes
7/27/20

The committee looked at the survey data.

What jumped out about the data?

Family Survey

- The majority of parents want children to be back at school.
- We seem to be heading in the right direction with the hybrid model.
- When looking at the hybrid model, people prefer the two days on, three days off.
- Twenty percent of the population does not want to go back. We need to provide learning to this remote population. There is a possibility that the state might provide a remote program. Some concern was expressed about whether this was the best choice for our students.
- An example of a district and how they dealt with the remote student/staff population was discussed.
- How will we accommodate children going back and forth from hybrid to remote?
- Depending on how the question was asked, the responses changed. The ratio could shift any way once the plan is established.
- Answers by parents were consistent across schools.
- A lot of priorities of parents were the same as our criteria.
- We are lucky to have parents who can transport students on their own. That might not be the case in other districts. A survey will go out this week regarding transportation.
- 96% of families have access to reliable internet. This is a little higher than in the spring.

Educator Survey

- Tech/strengthened internet may be needed for some staff.
- Responses were more divided than the educators. The “blue” and the “pink” results could be combined.
- The choices for schedules for hybrid learning had similar numbers of votes.
- Potential for school day requirement to be reduced to 170 days for the school year.
- Ipswich seems to be ahead of the curve in terms of how we switched to remote learning.
- Two-thirds of teachers/staff are concerned about coming back to work (even though they want to). Tracy stated that the student survey indicated the same-ish data.
- 25% of staff members will be in need of childcare. The word childcare is a dicey word to use.
- Students through elementary school need support from parents to engage in remote learning.
- Some learning may have to happen outside of the school day due to parent work schedules. How do we support that? We need to think about this flexibility for educators too.
- Could we set up an in-school place for faculty/staff students to engage in remote learning? Possibility of learning centers was brought up. Could this be offsite?
- We need to maintain balance between synchronous and asynchronous instruction to provide families with flexibility.
- The student survey showed that students felt more ready for learning because they could sleep later.

Discussion:

- The district may be a position to work with teachers who can't come back due to health reasons. Positions may need to change as we balance everyone's needs.
- Families and staff will likely need to commit to one model or another for a specified period of time (i.e. a trimester, etc.).
- Would there be a decision made together with nearby districts? No, but may be able to provide PD together.

Our task by Friday is to have a high level remote, hybrid, and in-person model to the state.

We talked about the Melrose plan and discussed how we could overlay that to a two day a week program. This might be more sustainable over time and could be more productive for teachers and staff to manage. Wearing a mask for six hours per days is difficult. We want to ensure that we have some in-person instruction for as long as possible. Reading, writing, and math would be prioritized for in-person instruction. Grab and go lunches could be provided. The phasing in of the model was also appealing.

It will be important to be transparent with parents about what the model actually looks like (i.e. pods, etc.) so they can make informed decisions about whether to send their students.

The middle school may be able to have all students in-person (with more than 3 feet, but not 6 feet distance).

Tracy will draft a plan that has two days a week with a prep day. We talked about students coming in with their cohorts on Tuesday/Wednesday and Thursday/Friday. Concerns about special education were discussed. How will we support remote learning, while we are in person. How will teachers get prep time? We cannot have band/chorus indoors due to the guidelines. A lot of different models were proposed. So many questions to be answered. "It is the best bad decision we are going to make."