INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Presentation of 2020-2021 School Year Reopening Plan Overview

ACPS Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Kim Kalbaugh, gave the school board an instructional update after it was recommended by Interim Superintendent, Mr. Jeff Blank, that ACPS start the 2020-2021 school year virtually. Staff has reviewed recovery options for the three stages within Maryland’s Recovery Plan in preparation for the opening of schools. Feedback was gathered from numerous stakeholder groups including community members, the local health department, and several ACPS departments in order to ensure the feasibility of all recovery options.

Each district in Maryland was charged with designing a plan that prioritizes educational equity in providing every student with access to the educational rigor, resources, and support that are designed to maximize a student’s academic success and social/emotional well being and that engages students, families, and staff whether operating under traditional, hybrid, or a fully virtual or distance learning model.

ACPS used the K-12 Decision Matrix provided by the Governor’s Office to develop a plan for a traditional, hybrid model, and fully virtual model. Each local school system was also charged with meeting the Requirements for Opening Schools as outlined in the Maryland Together: Maryland’s Recovery Plan for Education. ACPS developed a hybrid model for both elementary and secondary schools, which were shared with a stakeholder group of parents, students, teachers, administrators, Teacher Roundtable representatives, and the local health department. The ACPS hybrid model was very similar to other Maryland district plans, and just as in every other district, ACPS faced operational, transportation, health and safety challenges for in-person models under the increased requirements for cleaning, disinfecting, sanitation, social distancing protocols, mask requirements, and the number of students that could safely be transported or in a classroom.

Due to these challenges, ACPS administration recommended a fully virtual learning model to start the school year. In the distance-learning environment, a combination of synchronous (real time/live) and asynchronous (independent) approaches will be utilized by teachers to deliver the ACPS curriculum aligned to the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards. All students will have access to high quality virtual instruction. Students with special learning needs will have access to appropriate supports, accommodations, and modifications in line with their documented learning needs. All students will have access to learning support through the classroom teacher or other resources.

Several things will be different from the way the closures were handled in March, most notably the more robust virtual learning for both students and teachers. ACPS purchased Schoology, a learning management system that provides what teachers and students need for effective and robust teaching and learning in one platform. Schoology is very user friendly for both students and adults. Through Schoology, there are tools to create engaging content, design lessons and assess student understanding. With Schoology, teachers can quickly and easily create media-rich

CONSENT AGENDA
The school board voted unanimously to approve the following consent agenda:

- Approve minutes for Open Session on June 9, 2020.
- Approve routine personnel actions for the period of June 1, 2020-July 31, 2020.
- Receive monthly financial report for June and July 2020.
- Receive monthly information technology report for the period of June and July 2020.
- Consider approval of 2020-2021 Table Rates for bus contractors.
Consider Adopting 2020-2021 School Year Reopening Plan
The school board voted unanimously to adopt the 2020-2021 school year reopening plan, which will start the year virtually. Students will begin their virtual learning on September 8, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS
Parent/Guardian Survey Hybrid and Fully Virtual Instructional Models 2020-2021 School Year
Deadline: Friday, July 31st at Noon
*Raw Results* (noted duplicative responses found but not adjusted below)

Select the grade level(s) of your child(ren).
2,829 responses

- K-2 Elementary: 844 (29.8%)
- 3-5 Elementary: 1,028 (36.3%)
- Middle School: 1,082 (38.2%)
- High School: 1,206 (42.6%)

Other responses:
- Pre-K: 10 (0.4%)
- Pre-K 1: 7 (0.2%)
- Pre-K 2: 4 (0.1%)
- Pre-K 3: 4 (0.1%)
- Headstart: 3 (0.1%)
- Pre-K 4: 2 (0.1%)
- Pre K: 2 (0.1%)
- Pre K, 2nd, 3rd: 2 (0.1%)
- Pre-K 4: 2 (0.1%)
- Going into Pre-K: 1 (0%)
- Pre k: 1 (0%)
- Prek: 1 (0%)
- PreK 3 (Judy Center): 1 (0%)
- Prek3: 1 (0%)
- Prek4: 1 (0%)
- Prek: 1 (0%)
- Pre-School: 1 (0%)
- Jefferson School: 1 (0%)
- Potential Pre-K 3 student: 1 (0%)
- 2 high schoolers: 1 (0%)
- PreK 3: 1 (0%)
- Pre-K & 4: 1 (0%)
- K-middle school: 1 (0%)
- PK: 1 (0%)
- Pre K 3 yr old: 1 (0%)
- Pre K and 1st grade: 1 (0%)
- Pre-K: 1 (0%)
- Pre-K 4: 1 (0%)
- One starting pre k: 1 (0%)
- Citizen: 1 (0%)
- Head start: 1 (0%)

0 250 500 750 1,000 1,250
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One component of the Hybrid Instructional Model is to provide instruction in a brick-and-mortar school setting. In such a setting, I agree my child(ren) will wear a mask and practice social distancing throughout the school day.

2,829 responses

- Yes, I agree my child(ren) will wear a mask and practice social distancing throughout the school day.
- No, my child(ren) will not wear a mask and practice social distancing throughout the school day.

I want my child(ren) to participate in the Hybrid Model of Instruction while the state of Maryland is in Stage 2.

2,829 responses

- Yes
- No
Parent/Guardian Survey Hybrid and Fully Virtual Instructional Models 2020-2021 School Year
Deadline: Friday, July 31st at Noon
*Raw Results* (noted duplicative responses found but not adjusted below)

If you said yes to the Hybrid Instructional Model, which of the following do you prefer?
2,829 responses

- Same days each week (ie, Monday and Wednesday, Tuesday and Thursday) 47.8%
- Every other day (three days one week and two days the next week over a two week period) 16.3%
- N/A (not choosing Hybrid Model) 35.9%

Are you aware the ACPS will provide each student with an electronic learning device, as requested, in order to provide access to real-time interaction with teachers through Schoology?
2,829 responses

- Yes 63.1%
- No 36.9%
School board members expressed their gratitude to the ACPS staff that worked, and continue to work, hard to develop both a hybrid and fully virtual plan for the reopening of schools. They indicated that they didn’t reach their decision to vote for fully virtual instruction to open the year lightly. Each member wants to ultimately get students back into the classroom; however, they realize that in order to keep students and staff safe, fully virtual instruction was the best option. Plans will continue to be reevaluated as COVID-19 is monitored as the year progresses.

The school board’s decision to open the school year virtually has also postponed all athletic and extracurricular activities effectively immediately.