Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Dear Pottsgrove Families:

A parent survey was sent to district families on June 1, 2020. A reminder was sent to all families on June 8, 2020. To date (June 24, 2020), 714 families have responded to this survey. This represents 37% of the 1,950 total families with students within the Pottsgrove School District.

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WERE ASKED

1. Parent/Guardian (Full Name)
2. Under the current pandemic conditions, and without any vaccine, would you send your son/daughter to school in the following grades?
3. Under the current pandemic conditions, and without any vaccine, would you send your son/daughter to school on a school bus?
4. How do the following factors influence your decision to return your child to school?
5. Rank your choices for your son/daughter to begin the 2020-2021 school year.
6. In order to feel comfortable sending your child to school, which of the following would need to be in place?
7. Do you have internet access in your household?
8. During the Spring of 2020, during which remote learning occurred, did your child have sufficient bandwidth in order to complete assigned activities?
9. Do you have one technology device for each student in your household?
10. Is there anything we did not specifically ask that you would like to share as you consider returning your child to school?

COMMON THEMES

- The majority of parent’s support students returning to school (at least part time). Those percentages appear to increase with the age of the student.
- The majority of parents want to be assured that appropriate safety guidelines are in place.
- The most noted mitigation efforts that parents select are all pieces that will need to be fully addressed within the district’s safety plan.
- Because of the ongoing efforts across the district, the need for access to devices and internet across the district appear to be decreasing.
- In terms of transportation, respondents were very similar on whether they were willing to put their children on a bus (45%) or provide their own transportation (41%).


ACTUAL RESPONSES

Returning Students to School

- Across most grade levels, 2/3 of parents say they would return their children to school and approximately 1/3 say they would not. The number of parents who would send students back increases along with the grade span.
- K-2: 264 parents responded. 64% (169) would return students to school while 36% (95) responded they would not.
- 3-5: 296 parents responded. 58% (181) would return students to school while 42% (115) responded they would not.
- 6-8: 313 parents responded. 65% (204) would return students to school while 35% (109) responded they would not.
- 9-12: 368 parents responded. 74% (272) they would return students to school while 26% (96) responded they would not.
- 9-12 Western Center: 150 parents responded. 73% (109) would return students to school while 27% (41) responded they would not.

Transportation

- 45% of respondents (320) say they would put students on a bus while 41% (291) say they would provide their own transportation.

Factors Influencing Return to School

The most serious concerns noted among parents when deciding on whether to return students to school included:

1. Health of student (375)
2. Health of family member (327)
3. Difficult to keep student engaged (288)
4. Challenges associated with remote learning (268)
5. Parent or guardian at work (184)

Preferences on Return to School

- Respondents were asked to rank among three choices: (1) attend to school full-time, (2) attend school part-time and do remote learning part-time, and (3) full-time remote.
- The data supports that most parents support a return to school full-time or a part-time in school, and part-time remote learning scenario (Hybrid Model).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of School</th>
<th>First Choice</th>
<th>Second Choice</th>
<th>Third Choice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Come to school full-time</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Come to school part-time AND remote learning part- time</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote learning full-time</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>443</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mitigation to be in Place to Feel Comfortable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Percent/Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequent cleaning of buildings</td>
<td>92% (659)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health checks for staff members</td>
<td>76% (539)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Following CDC recommendations</td>
<td>75% (534)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain social distancing</td>
<td>53% (377)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limit movement of students</td>
<td>44% (315)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masks for staff and students</td>
<td>40% (288)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Internet Access

99% of respondents noted there was internet access in the household.

Sufficient Bandwidth

93% of respondents noted there was sufficient bandwidth in the household for students to adequately complete assignments during the Spring of 2020.

Device Availability

85% of respondents noted they have one device for each student within the household, 15% did not.

We will continue to work with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and other agencies to provide guidance for the re-opening of school for the fall of 2020. Currently, we are completing PDE’s Health & Safety Plan for both the re-opening of school and participation in interscholastic sports. This document will address the many scenarios that exist specific to the Pottsgrove School District. We are still waiting for updates from PDE regarding the educational guidelines for the 2020-21 school year. The plan will then be approved by the Pottsgrove Board of School Directors and consequently be submitted to PDE.

We will continue to update the community as our plans develop for the fall of 2020. Thank you for your continued patience and support.

Respectfully,

Dr. William R. Shirk, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools