

Questions/Comments Received for Virtual Town Hall Meeting – November 12, 2020

1. What is the plan to improve the internet including speed at Thompson?

The internet is working fine to the best of our knowledge. We will double check on that though. There may be a problem with some of the Chromebooks and the processors due to the amount of applications now on the system and the age of the CB. We will look into that as well.

2. Where will all the students who are returning from DL go? Is there room for them?

We have room for all students except in grade levels K, 3, & 4. Pell has all their students in every day whole class - while TMS and RHS are on hybrid because they were unable to bring students in every day safely and follow RIDOH and CDC guidelines. Principal Westman working with her staff is trying to see if we can find a creative solution for these students that wish to come back. Please see the slide deck that shows actual numbers.

3. I have been hearing rumors that RHS may close soon. Please comment.

RHS is open, fully compliant with RIDOH and CDC guidelines and we have been able to be creative with a ventilation system and Hepa filters to assure during the cold months the school may stay open. Now, the building does have heating issues in general and there are some factors that cannot be addressed due to age and we will make every effort to keep it open as long as possible.

4. How many students per grade are on distant learning and how many are in school? Last month we were given the matrix for TMS, but have not heard about RHS.

Please see the slide deck. There is a chart there for all grade levels and schools that shows the latest information.

5. Have there been any positive cases at Thompson?

Not at this time (11-12 6pm)- no

6. Can you explain how quarantine works? What are families supposed to do and not do while in quarantine?

Students are to stay away from each other (classmates) stay at home with limited exposure to people. Contact group should be small and the same people. Students should not attend DL with a community partner or in any other location while staying away from others.

7. The children that are not showing up for their in school learning days, as a school System and as a community are we reaching out? If so how?

Yes- we have para educators, staff, and Deans reaching out to families and staff. We also have staff, teachers, community partners, and Mr. Merrit doing home visits. We first check that everyone is safe, and then we check in why a student is not showing up at school or online. The tape of the meeting will go into more detail on what we are doing.

8. What measures are being taken to ensure children are not to blame whose grades are suffering from lack of in person learning. The home environment is not a structured classroom environment that many children need to perform at their best..how do standards and expectations reflect these unfair circumstances so many children and families are faced with. The fact our homes are not classrooms and will never provide classroom advantage, clearly is not the child's fault.

This is a very challenging time, and yes we need to take everything you say into consideration when grading our students- and especially for those at the high school level. We are working on this by giving extended time, working with students one on one and reaching out to families. It is a work in progress as we started these discussions and new processes last spring in our first months of DL. See tape for more information on this.

9. How are we going to enhance the distance learning experience? Hands on activities, etc.?

I recommend in the DL survey sharing ideas with us, explaining further what you would like to see, and reaching out to your building principal and teachers.

10. The children that are not showing up for their in school learning days, as a school System and as a community are we reaching out? If so how?

See above.

11. Just wanted to say you guys are doing a great job in these trying times.

Thank you!

12. I would like updates on distance learning and how the schools are handling the rise in COVID cases to keep the kids, teachers and all school staff safe.

Please listen to the tape. We are continuing to follow all guidelines by RIDOH and CDC and all decisions will be based on health and safety first.

13. What are your plans for Rogers' students for the next 4 years? How will you improve the building for them? They are being disregarded. The new school will be great for the future students but what about the current students? What is being done now, and will be for 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024? (This is a Non-COVID-19 related question.)

We will continue to keep the building open, keep it clean and safe as possible, and monitor and address any concerns we are able. The plant engineer and staff are doing their best every day to make the learning environment as best as possible for the students and the staff. It is a challenge. Please listen to tape too.