

# Newport Public Schools

# Community Town Hall Meeting

April 8, 2021

# School Building Update

- Design work is underway at Pell Elementary School led by Downes Construction Company, and Design-Build team of Behan Bros., Inc./StudioJAED. (Scrim is being created by students and staff)
- SLAM Collaborative (Architect/Engineer) and Gilbane Building Company (Construction Manager at Risk) have been selected for Rogers High School. Programming work is underway with staff.

## Upcoming Meetings:

- Pell Community meeting - April 19 at 5:30. The meeting will be recorded.
- RHS Good Neighbor meeting - May 3 at 5:30
- Community meeting - May 4 at 5:30 for both projects (Pell and RHS)
- School Building Committee meetings - all are invited to attend [School Building Committee](#)

# TMS Principal Search Update

HR Director McAndrews, along with NESDEC (New England School Development Council) consultant is overseeing the process:

- Week of 4/12-4/16: TMS Focus Groups - TMS Staff, TMS Students, TMS Parents, TMS Community Members, Pell 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents
- Week of 4/19-4/23 (School Vacation Week) – Review feedback of focus groups and implement into score card for Screening Committee
- Monday 4/26/21 - Screening Committee Training Session - Review Expectations, Confidentiality agreement, Time Commitment, Score Card. “Blind” resume review begins.
- Monday 5/03/21 – Top 5/6 candidates are identified for interview
- Wednesday 5/05/21 and Thursday 5/06/21 – Interviews scheduled and decision by Screening Committee which candidates will move forward for final interviews
- Week of 5/10-5/14 - Final round of interviews

# Budget Development FY22 and FY23

- Building and District Administrators have developed staffing plans for FY22 looking forward to FY23 focusing on skills development, literacy, and professional development.
- Draft FY22 will be ready for discussion with the Newport School Committee and City Council. A pre-budget workshop is scheduled for April 15.
- Parent and teacher input/participation in the budget process is critical as we advocate for our students (SIT Teams, PTO, Building Leader)

# Expansion of In-Person Learning

- All K-12 staff have had the opportunity to be vaccinated
- More Rhode Islanders are getting vaccinations every day
- New CDC and RIDOH guidance allows for planning to safely bring back more students and staff to in-person learning
- Families are being contacted to determine the number of students that will return four to five days a week starting on Tuesday, April 27.

# Updated Guidance for COVID restrictions

<b>Original Guidance</b>	<b>Updated Guidance</b>
1. Quarantine-14 days after close contact	1. Quarantine -10 days after close contact (May return on Day 11 if one receives a negative test after Day 7)
2. Social Distancing-6 feet between all adults and children	2. Social Distancing-3 feet for children and continue with 6 feet between adults & children. 6 feet between children when eating in a cafeteria.
3.Pod Distancing-14 feet between pods	3. Pod Distancing -7 feet between pods
4. Pod Exposure-adults were encouraged to limit their exposure to multiple pods	4. Pod Exposure-limits are no longer in effect following the 3 feet and 6 feet guidance noted above.

# Travel Updates

After April vacation travel restrictions will be as follows:

- International travel requires you to isolate 14 days upon return
- Travel within the US to an area that has a positivity rate of less than 5% and if you meet the criteria [Please click here](#) does not require isolation upon return.
- Travel to a place that has a positive rate of 5% or more will require individuals to isolate for 10 days and receive a negative COVID test taken on day 7 or later, before returning to school on day 11.

Updated list: [States with Travel Restrictions upon entry to RI](#)

# Stay vigilant – avoid COVID fatigue

- Continue to follow mask wearing, social distancing within the new guidelines, and hand washing
- Appropriate air ventilation will continue. MERV 17s are now in our buildings. Plant engineers and custodians will continue to monitor air flow and sanitizing our facilities.
- Transportation schedules will be determined based on requests and guidance from RIDE, RIDOH, and the CDC
- Safety is still the number one priority as students and staff return to in-person learning

# “COVID Fatigue”

- We are almost there and need to continue to work together to overcome the virus
- “COVID fatigue”- people thinking that they don’t have to be as careful
- It is difficult – even asymptomatic people may transmit the virus
- **Please** stay strong and *wash* your hands, *watch* your distance and *wear* your mask

# Planning Now and For the Future

- Three year Strategic Plan, ESSER II and ESSER III
- Innovation and Lessons learned from COVID
- [RIDE ESSER II Planning](#)

# Next Steps

- Principals/Directors, working with teachers, staff, SIT and PTO, will map out immediate summer and future plans on how to address learning recovery and possible action steps. Public meetings are required for review of plans.
- Parameters around use of funding will determine how and what we may do.
- Community Partnerships are encouraged to help support our schools, focus on skill building, in-school tutoring, and mentorship are other areas highlighted for planning.

# In closing

- Our goal is to get as many students back in school as safely as possible for in-person learning to support them academically and socially emotionally
- Our goal is to support our families, students, and staff as safely as possible as people return to our buildings. We understand this is a change and we are here to support you.
- Now is the time for us to think outside the box, take lessons from COVID and be the school system we want to be. We would like to think of this as an opportunity.

## Questions or comments?

Please feel free to share any follow-up with your building leaders, directors, teacher leaders or Superintendent's Office. We want to hear all voices as we move forward.

Or e-mail: [ideasfornps@npsri.net](mailto:ideasfornps@npsri.net)

**Thank you!**

We appreciate everyone's patience, hard work, and flexibility during this school year.

It takes all of us to make this happen.

Next Community Town Hall meeting is Thursday, May 27 at 6 PM.