

HOS Office Hours 5/26/2020

Agenda for Office Hours

- Meeta: Ways we're community-building, particular for new families
- Olana: Ways we're concluding the school year strong, transition to summer, and some notes about summer planning to reopen campus
- Scott: Reopening campus and launching the new year
- Q & A

Scott's Talking Points

- As we continue to work through this unprecedented time, I remain so grateful for your exceptional support, empathy, and faith in the value of a PBS education.
- Thank you!
- We have spent time on these weekly calls engaging with you on a variety of topics during our shelter in place.
- Tonight, my topic focuses on the new school year.
- We want to, are committed to, and are working hard towards reopening campus in August.
- It will look different than we're used to.
- It will not be perfect.
- How we start school in August may look different than September or even a few months after that.
- Having said all that: The essential point is that we will be back together in-person again.
- Community stands at the center of our efforts to reopen campus -- our core value of community.
- I want you to know that →
- My team and I are highly focused on the planning to reopen campus.
- We are directing a lot of institutional resources to make this happen.
- Three teams consisting of 30 educators and third-party experts are working hard on educational modeling, operational protocols, and campus prep.
- We are planning for optionality and building flexibility into our scenarios.
- Our planning is focused **both** on concrete details and on strategic issues.
- PBS faculty and staff **need to be and will be** ready for any of the August scenarios we need.
- Optionality and flexibility are also important because California State and San Mateo County directives are unfolding.
- San Mateo County Superintendent Nancy Magee has previewed the county's required framework to reopen school with me and other independent school heads.

- She noted the framework's four required pillars:
- Health and Hygiene; Face Coverings; Physical Distancing; and Limited Gatherings.
- She talked about the importance of "Stable Cohorts" of students, the size of which is dictated by physical distancing and limited student mixing as much as can be achieved.
- She hopes to release the framework in writing this week → Hopes to.
- PBS-specific precautions and measures will strictly follow these pillars as we prioritize keeping our students, faculty, and staff safe.
- We are highly focused on all of the necessary safety protocols -- everything from campus mapping for physical distancing and foot traffic flow, to sanitizing stations, to designated outdoor spaces, to staffing priorities, to safe drop-off and pick-up, and much more.
- In addition, another top priority in reopening campus is creating an optimal learning environment to deliver our curriculum.
- To make that happen, we're talking about a **Phased Approach** to reopen campus.
- This approach adheres to the county's framework for physical distancing.
- To give you a visual picture:
- Cohort A would be a small group doing class on campus, while Cohort B would be a different small group doing the same class online.
- **Phased Approach to reopen campus**
- Cohort A and Cohort B would then rotate so that each would experience in-classroom learning the same amount of time.
- A Phased Approach also provides a safe way for adults to supervise health and hygiene and other safety protocols. It would use the Stable Cohort framework. And you can imagine the complexities as well as the importance both teaching adherence and managing adherence for students ages 3-11. That is part of the county's pillars.
- Here are a few other things on our mind as we continue our planning:
- Creating one, **unified classroom community** → Students in Cohort A and Cohort B experience the same curriculum
- It means all students have the opportunity to do school on campus, preschool to 5th grade.
- We can build on the best of our on-campus education plan plus enhance the elements of online learning for the Cohort A/Cohort B. With ten weeks under our belt and based on lots of feedback, including the results of parent and faculty-staff surveys, we've developed some initial key performance indicators for online learning -- we want to enhance it and amplify the best in those indicators.
- A Phased Approach is also **family focused**. For example, we can keep siblings in multiple grades in the same Cohort → Which means that families can have one schedule for school at PBS, not multiple.

- Families who choose to opt-out of coming to campus, for their own reasons, would have the option for their children to be part of their classroom community while doing school fully online, rather than a separation from the community.
- Our core values call on us to emphasize community, belonging, and respect for the unique families needs.
- Again, we want to keep our community together and the essential point is to be back together again.
- We want “Community” to continue being a major strength of our school.
- This is just a brief overview of the many things my team and I are highly focused on and our concrete planning and strategies to reopen campus.
- Before getting to Q&A for Meeta, Olana, and me, I want to close with three notes:
- FIRST: All of our planning has our students at the center and our core values as the driving purpose. I am proud of our educators, students, and families for their resourcefulness, commitment, and love for our school.
- SECOND: Please keep in mind that our plans may change based on changing circumstances or new information regarding health mandates or State and County guidelines. It is important to emphasize this possibility. Nancy Magee, the superintendent, noted the caveat that we need to be flexible and adaptable to changing information from her office.
- THIRD: Thank you!
- Thank you for supporting our ongoing work with your helpful suggestions, flexibility, good spirit, and love for our school.
- Thank you for supporting our commitment to reopen campus with our scenario planning and concrete actions.
- Thank you for hearing this work-in-process so you can be informed about the complexities and understand that we are focused on all important topics.
- Thank you for carefully reading my email on reopening campus, which will share many of the same points. Please watch for it.
- Thank you for completing our upcoming survey designed specifically around the launch of the new school year. Please watch for it because your input will inform our next steps and collective planning.