

## Call to Order

**Attendees:** Gina Cortez, Elizabeth Davis, Miranda Hansen-Hunt, Robert Henderson, Madeline Houck, Faith Gibson Hubbard, Tamika Joyner, Chelsie Jones, Louise Jones (guest), Lisa Luceno (guest speaker), Andrea Marryshow, Brianna McGowan, Sherice Muhammad, Zachary Parker, Rip Preston, Evan Pielkara, Joyanna Smith, Timothy Thomas, Cassie Walther

## Discussion:

*Topic:* **Reopening Schools**

*Guest speakers:* **Dr. Louise Jones, principal of [McKinley Tech Education Campus](#)**

**Lisa Luceno, [Senior Director of Early Childhood Strategy at Briya PCS](#)**

*School Re-Opening plans for McKinley Tech:*

- Middle school and high school plans are different
- 25% students for in-person student attendance
  - Haven't reached this limit
  - First invited students struggling the most academically
  - If a family declines attendance, then ask other students
  - At this point, school is pretty much open to all students
  - Students must have up-to-date immunization
- Staff members chosen to attend in-person based on a random ranking, but many staff have a virtual destination and those without one mostly left to come into school
  - Dr. Jones sensitive to childcare for teachers and staff, so created scheduled so that they have time to make back up childcare arrangements
  - Some staff have volunteered to serve as backups
- Walk-through for parents/families and teacher scheduled for 1/25/2021
  - Any issues take to the district
  - LSAT and PTO attending walk-through will give a report on outcomes to W5EEC
  - 12 people participating
- CARES classrooms (who is in classroom): 10 students, 2 adults
  - No direct instruction— Teachers instruct virtually
  - 2 support staff in classrooms
  - Meals served in classroom (breakfast is grab and go)
  - Schedule bathroom breaks for students; cleaning crews part of this schedule
- Student Days for in schools
  - In high school, different cohorts will meet on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday— different cohorts on each day

- In middle school, cohorts meet 2 days a week—Monday and Wednesday, or Tuesday and Thursday)
- No physical education but will try to allow time for movement and to give students a break from sitting at desk all-day, e.g. “mindful minutes” so that students can do stretches if they can do so socially-distanced, go for walks with staff worker
- Other changes in procedures:
  - To enter school, health/medical personnel will take temperatures
  - Students keep belongings with them (e.g. no cell phone collection, no going to and using lockers)
- Contingency plans—what happens if someone in school tests positive?
  - School conducting random testing for those who are asymptomatic
  - If has a high temperature in morning, sent home
  - If tests positive or is contact with someone contacted, then cohort members are to get tested and self-quarantine
  - If widespread outbreak, school will shutdown
- Benefits of opening schools
  - Lots of apprehension evidenced by not meeting 25% enrollment but Dr. Jones understands the importance of having students reconnect, e.g. 9<sup>th</sup> graders never entered high school and 10<sup>th</sup> graders only got a ½ year
  - Dr. Jones preference—ensuring all teachers are fully vaccinated before coming into schools and focused on making virtual education better

#### *School reopening plans for Britya*

- Two-generation school: ECE and adult workforce development; NO k-12; 95% students are English Language Learners and significant percentage are students with special needs
- Created outdoor learning environments so that ECE students could return
  - Used OSSE’s guidance [for indoor and outdoor spaces](#)
  - Currently 40% attendance and expect numbers to increase when weather gets warmer
  - ½-day program— ECE students in class half-day, enter school building to use bathroom
  - 90% of the staff on campus
  - Curriculum: sensory learning model that prioritizes health and safety and no contact; blended learning model so students learning virtually get same experience as those in-class; developed a learning guide
  - Each student much have own set of individual materials, e.g. sand, containers of worms, pencils, etc.
  - Some classroom teaching tools are outside, e.g. easels with flipcharts

- High-rate of teacher vaccinations:
  - Mary Care Center is a strategic partner— staff vaccinated teachers at night after day shifts
  - Lots of communications, e.g. where to get vaccinations, resources that dispel myths about vaccinations, weekly newsletters, lots and lots of support
  - ECE teachers- especially hard to teach virtually to “little ones”
  - Staff evaluates and reevaluates to make needed adjustments and changes
- Measuring learning—double-downed on math and literacy because hard to get socio-emotional learning data because students are not directly engaging with peers

#### Outstanding Questions:

- Who was invited to participate in the COVID-checklist school tours?
- What are the metrics for staying virtual?
- What are the number of COVID infections in schools?

#### Resources:

- <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/data>
- [Playful Learning: A New Path to Education Reform](#)
- [Zachary Parker’s Newsletter](#)
- [SBOE Teacher Survey \(Closed on January 29\)](#)
- [OSSE’s State Plan Waiver Request](#)