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Highlights from the September 16, 2020 Special Called Board Meeting

Board Votes to Approve Phased-in Return to In-Person Learning

At the Special Called Meeting of the Board on Wednesday, Board members voted 8-1 to approve a phased in return to in-person learning with staff returning September 28th and some students (Pre-K – 2nd, 6th and 9th grades) returning to classrooms beginning October 5th. Read the full resolution here:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTGQF564F905>

Phased-in Return to In-Person Learning Plan

A graduated approach to in-person learning has been developed based on a hybrid model. The entire district is in Phase 1 or the Virtual Phase currently. The Resolution approved by the Board calls for a school staff return date of Monday, September 28, 2020 and the return of PreK- 2, least independent learners, Grade 6 and First-time Grade 9 Cohorts on October 5th for a Phase II Limited Hybrid plan of two days in-person and three days virtual each week.

A tentative date of October 26th has been set for the district to move to an expanded hybrid plan in Phase III, contingent on certain COVID-19 transmission data points, that will bring students who choose the hybrid option - PreK-12 - into the classroom two days a week, with virtual learning three days per week. Phase IV would be a return to the classroom for all students choosing the hybrid model four days a week with Wednesdays continuing as deep cleaning/independent learning days. No tentative date has been set for Phase IV to begin. See more details on the plan here:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTGQHQ654652>

Meeting Employee Needs

The District has determined a need to support our staff's return to work in the hybrid model with an instructional support option for their children. Sites will be provided and available only to the children of District employees currently enrolled in SCCPSS schools between the ages of 4 and 12. Learn more here:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTGQHQ654652>

Cyber Security and Online Practices

Board members were given a presentation on Student Behavior Management in a Virtual format. That management includes:

- District monitoring of applications.
- Protocols for online security and online classroom management have been developed.
- Teacher training for online classroom management practices.
- District developed video demonstrating best practices for online classroom security including: Handling inappropriate behavior online, zoom-bombing, move to waiting room, etc. Distributed to all staff through Safe Schools.
- Ongoing training scheduled throughout the year to include monthly drills for teachers to practice reacting quickly to inappropriate online occurrences.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTGQGE651647>

Staffing Considerations

The Board heard multiple presentations regarding Human Resources considerations as we prepare for a return to in-person learning. The presentations presented included:

- Hiring/Staffing Needs - CARES Act, FMLA, Vacancies, Substitutes
<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTGQGK6519D6>
- Staff Level of Comfort for In-person Return
<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTGQGL651C7E>
- Managing COVID Cases, Rolling Outages
<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTGQGN651DE5>
- Instructional Adjustments for Teaching - Dual Teaching
<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTGQGP651ECA>

Budget Implications

There will be a number of budget implications in preparing for a return to in-person learning during a global pandemic. The Finance Department presented the Board with estimates of those impacts. See the report here:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTGQFE650DC4>

Survey Results Presented

The results of the recent survey of parents and staff on their preferences for teaching and learning were presented to the Board. There were 11,529 parent/guardian and 3,544 employee responses. The survey requested input on what level of community spread was considered acceptable for a return to in-person learning, which option they would choose between virtual and in-person instructional models and whether or not they would utilize transportation services if they were able to be provided. View the presentation for survey results:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/ga/scs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BTGQHG6539DE>