Parent Advisory Group

February 17, 2022

School Committee: Kurt Moellering, Gretchen Petersen, Amy Davis, Amy Plante, Vanessa Craverio, Debby Worcester, Korina Martin

Parent Committee: Tim Flood, Susanne Lazzaro, Christina Chatalian

Mask Mandate

* LPS has decided to keep mask in place for a few more weeks then re-evaluate after vacation beginning of March. An email will go out to parents Friday.
* Although the Covid numbers are going down rapidly in Massachusetts, infection levels remain high -- higher right now than at many other times throughout the pandemic when mask mandates have been in place.
* People travel during school vacations, and we have seen a spike in cases after each of the past few holiday breaks. It seems wise to wait to see what infection levels look like post-February break when we return to school in March.
* While our population is well vaccinated, the current variant has shown itself to be transmissible even in vaccinated people.
* At the end of March, we will be much closer to warmer weather with more time outside and much further from indoor cold and flu season when all viruses are more prevalent.

**Question:** Does this have to do with testing and being mandated?

**Answer:** LPS does not mandated testing. Due to the staff/students that have been infected by COVID they can’t test. LPS is not aware possibly of all staff/students that have been infected so the numbers make it hard to know who has had it or not. As for the masks, if anyone wants to still wear the masks after it is lifted, they are welcome to continue wearing a mask. DESE says it is strongly recommended that unvaccinated students/staff wear a mask, not mandated.

**Statement from Parent: Would like to be sure that when the mask mandate is lifted that LPS makes sure that student body knows it is optional whenever it comes to not wearing it. Parents want the students to know that is it acceptable either way.**

**Kurt: That is what LPS wants too! We will definitely make that aware to the students/staff.**

Enrichment:

 A survey was sent to the student body to come up with ideas that they would like to see for enrichment. Then they could choice what they would like to do. This new enrichment session will begin March 7th.

 Activities include:

1. Music group
2. Games
3. Walk and talk
4. Study hall
5. Creative writing
6. Drama/theater
7. Baking
8. Yearbook
9. Outdoor activities

**Statement from parent: Just so the administration knows that the students were so excited about being able to use their voice to come up with ideas and pick what they could join.**

Title IX Policy

 Definition: No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Coordinator: Gretchen Peterson

 Training will be posted on the website.

MCAS:

 All students are practicing in class the computer test. Any accommodations for testing, need to be in the IEP and approved before tested.

 March 15 &16 Math retest

 22 & 23 10th grade ELA

 April 5 & 6 5th and 6th grade ELA

 7 & 8 7th and 8th grade ELA

 26 & 27 5th and 8th grade Science

 May 10 & 11 5th and 6th grade Math

 12 & 13 7th and 8th grade Math

 17 & 18 10th grade Math

 June 7 & 8 Biology – 9th grade and retest

Summer Program:

* Dates July 11- July 29, 2020
* Field trips on Fridays
* Grades 5-12
* Monday through Friday
* 8:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.
* New – Open to Public
* Outsiders will need to apply, to see if appropriate, for the program
* Tuition $3,400
* The summer program is designed to maintain progress and prevent regression

Bingo Night:

* February 11th - virtual
* 41 families joined
* 14 winners - LPS students
* Thank you to parents that helped coordinate this wonderful event

 Tim Flood

 Catherine Lombardo

 Marla and Brooke Jacobs

 And all parents that donated gift cards

* It was fun and all had a great time

Dual Enrollment Next Year:

* All qualifying Seniors will have the opportunity to earn college credit through

 Mass Bay Community College while attending LPS

* To be successful the student, the student’s parent/guardians, LPS staff and districts must work in a close partnership
* Must be agreed before the student enrolls in the Dual-Enrollment program
* To provide students with a college course experience, but also to help them develop transitional skills such as self-advocacy, organization, and executive functioning.
* Courses can be transferred to other colleges
* More will be rolling out in mid-March.

Spring Afterschool:

* Spring session for afterschool will be April 4th through June 13th
* Scholarships are available

Affinity Groups:

 Michelle Cuddy , who put out the survey about the affinity group –

* Information will be put out to join
* This group is for families
* Includes discussions: adoption, mixed race families and more
* Come together talk about possibilities

Thought Partners:

 About inclusion and safe way to bring to school:

* More support
* More challenges
* More differentiation
* More communication

Academic Program:

* Parents don’t hear what is being worked on to improve LPS
* With more communication you will hear about what we want

 for the student’s journey, like dual enrollment

* Looking at programmatic changes through the program
* Always keeping the foundation in place
* More to come in the spring – concrete information to benefit the students

**Statement from parent: Impressed with LPS introducing the dual enrollment. Parents are thinking ahead and wonder what to do and what is needed. It is never to early to start planning. It motivates the students.**

**Question: Has the Summer Program historically been just LPS students? So, this is new and has only been for LPS?**

**Answer: Yes, brand new and has only been for LPS students in the past. This is to get the brand out there and expand to reach other students that may need LPS and don’t know us.**

**Question: Does Bingo traditionally have a turn out like the last one.**

**Answer: Before COVID we had not done Bingo virtually. I think more attend virtually.**

**Question: Third Party – job search and resume writing I am not able to find any information about this**

**anywhere. Does anyone know how to find this?**

**Answer: Yes, Mass Rehabilitation Commission provides this service. You find the local person that represents your town and have your own program virtually.**

**Follow up Question: Can Mass Rehab be an afterschool program?**

**Answer: Mass Rehab is incorporated already into our day classes, Career Education.**

**Question: In the ‘Thought Partners’ would we incorporate the Sr’s perspective? What has helped them and how affects them?**

**Answer: It would be great at the meeting if you/someone brings up this idea and sets something up.**