

This email is going to all PFT Members

February 11, 2021

SRP

Awesome news! PFT has been meeting with the district this week to review the actual data of participants and are pleased to announce the SRP will go forward despite 87 participants signing up rather than 105! Participants will receive more details from PARS, likely tomorrow via email.

Secondary Reopening Update from School Board Meeting

At tonight's School Board Meeting, the district shared that the CA Dept of Public Health (CDPH) just announced a waiver process to facilitate reopening of secondary schools, regardless of the tier the county is in. **The PUSD School Board directed the Superintendent and her Cabinet to apply for the waiver and to proceed with the reopening plan for secondary schools as soon as approved by the CDPH.** The waiver process is called a safety review process. The district must submit a letter of intent, the CDPH will respond, and if approved, will provide the district with a Safety Review Request Form. The District will have 10 business days to prepare the form with the necessary documentation required for review. Once submitted to the CDPH, they will reply within 7 business days to approve, deny, or request additional information. Board Member Michelle O'Connor-Ratcliff expressed that based on this process, they would likely be able to reopen secondary schools around March 10 (though the process could be shorter if the district prepares the application quickly and/or if the CDPH approves it quickly).

Up until this point, most secondary staff members have been able to choose whether to teach from home or from campus and have had the option to invite students into the classroom for instruction. Based on the Board's request to proceed with their reopening plan, this could mean an A/B concurrent model, which the Board adopted in both November and December for a projected January 19 reopening date at that time. Alternatively, it could mean a phased model incorporating more students in classrooms over time, or it could be a completely different learning model because of the CDPH guidance released in January, which seems to strengthen the expectations for stable cohorts. The Board did not discuss specifics of the instructional model this evening. They also did not discuss those with medical notes for self or family. However, they have previously stated their intent is to allow these teachers to continue to teach virtually (and will place a trained, Limited Term Instructional Assistant in the classroom to supervise). I will be speaking with the district as soon as possible to clarify their intentions and to set dates to bargain impacts and effects of their reopening plan, particularly with vaccinations within reach. I am also in contact with CFT and our attorney to find out details of the CDPH waiver process and whether they believe PUSD will qualify. As we find out more information, including the learning model and specific teacher expectations the district is planning, your input will be sought. Your voice is extremely important in determining next steps.

Here are the details of the scenarios for which CDPH will approve waiver requests if you are interested. PUSD expressed they feel the district qualifies under item 2.

1. Schools that were open and providing in-person instruction on Jan. 14 with less than 4 feet between student seating and are unable to implement at least 4 feet of physical distancing without forcing students to be served solely through distance learning can seek an exception to the guidance if they initiate the safety review process by Feb. 17.

2. Schools who believed they were “open” based on prior guidance issued by the state, who have not met the criteria for being open in the Jan. 14 guidance, may seek permission to reopen if they were actively in the process of bringing back additional students for in-person instruction as a part of a phased reopening plan.

In Unity,
Kelly