

F.O.I. Compliance

JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Subject to approval

Date: August 10, 2021

Special Meeting – REMOTE MEETING held

(To view a recording of this meeting, please visit our website www.reg4.k12.ct.us and select “Remote Meeting Recordings” under the BOARD OF EDUCATION Heading)

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION: David Fitzgibbons, Kris Pollock, Charlene Fearon, Tom Englert, Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis, Maria Scherber, Dale Bernardoni, Rob Bibbiani (joined at approx. 6:53 upon the conclusion of his Region 4 BOE meeting)

DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION: Miriam Morrissey, Bob Ferretti, Tracy Dickson, Marc Lewis, Pat Maikowski, Lenore Grunko, Missy Campbell, Betsy Scholfield

ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION: Lon Seidman, Mark Watson, Cassandra Sweet, Nancy Johnston, Justin Pillion (as reported by Chair Seidman)

REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION: Lon Seidman, (the following listed R4 BOE members joined this meeting at approx. 6:53 p.m., upon completion of their Region 4 BOE Special Meeting), Kate Sandmann, Jane Cavanaugh, Rick Daniels, Lori Ann Clymas, John Stack, Lon Seidman, Rob Bibbiani, Jennifer Clark, Kate Bergeron

Administration: Superintendent Brian J. White, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Sarah Brzozowy, Director of Pupil Services Sarah Smalley, Finance Director Bob Grissom, Chester Principal Tyson Stoddard, Deep River Principal Lauren Feltz, Essex Principal Jennifer Tousignant, John Winthrop Middle School Principal Matt Espinosa, Valley Regional High School Principal Mike Barile

CALL TO ORDER

Joint BOE Chair David Fitzgibbons called the meeting to order at approx. 6:45 p.m. (the start of this meeting was delayed due to an earlier R4 BOE meeting that ran over its anticipated end-time)

The Chairs of the Chester, Deep River, and Essex Boards of Education called their respective Boards to order at approx. 6:45 p.m. The Region 4 Board of Education called their meeting to order at approx. 6:53 p.m.

Presentation of School Reopening Plan

Superintendent White presented the School Reopening Plan for SY 2021-22. (see attached)

There was a time for Board members to ask questions and make comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No comments were made

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.



Reopening Plan 2021

Chester, Deep River, Essex, Region 4

Joint Board of Education Meeting
August 10, 2021

Purpose of Presentation

To provide the Board of Education Members, community stakeholders, families, staff and students with a high level overview of the current strategies for the reopening of schools in the Fall 2021.

The Schools of Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 will continue to adapt and follow the guidance from the, Connecticut State Department of Public Health, local Departments of Public Health as well as the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE).

Teaching and Learning

- The overarching goal for students is **100%** in-person learning for the entire school year
- There is **no** current requirement under Connecticut or federal law that after the period of emergency this school year, school districts are mandated to provide all students voluntary daily access to remote learning at the unilateral request of the student/family.
- The requirement that school districts provide temporary remote learning opportunities for all parents and will **no longer be in place** after this school year.

What's the same from Spring 2021?

A high quality learning experience and keeping schools open.

What's different from Spring 2021?

Remote Options are not available at this time.

Masks in School and on Transportation

- Universal indoor masking regardless of vaccination status.
(CT Governor's [Executive Order No. 12A](#))
- Required when students are riding district buses and vans.
- Masks are not required when students are outdoors but will remain optional.
- Masks breaks will continue to be scheduled throughout the day.

***What's the same from Spring 2021?
Masks required indoors and on transportation.***

***What's different from Spring 2021?
Masks are not required outside***

Quarantining after exposure to COVID-positive individual

- Not required for students or faculty/staff who have been fully vaccinated AND are asymptomatic, COVID-19 testing is still recommended
- Not required for students seated at least **3 feet** from a positive peer in classrooms if both students were properly wearing masks and the non-positive student is asymptomatic (applies only to students)
- Final determinations about quarantine periods will be made by the local health departments as appropriate
- School officials will continue to collaborate closely with public health officials on all contact tracing investigations.

***What's the same from Spring 2021?
Social distancing and contact tracing***

***What's different from Spring 2021?
Fully vaccinated individuals do not have to quarantine when exposed to
COVID-19 and non-symptomatic individuals***

Contact Tracing

- Fully vaccinated close contacts should be referred for COVID-19 testing. If asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine at home following an exposure
- Exposed individuals should wear a mask in other indoor public settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.
- Close contacts who are not fully vaccinated should be referred for COVID-19 testing. Regardless of test result, they should quarantine at home for 14 days after exposure.

***What's the same from Spring 2021?
Social distancing and mask wearing.***

***What's different from Spring 2021?
Fully vaccinated individuals do not have to quarantine when exposed to
COVID-19***

Cohorting

- Cohorting of students remains a recommended strategy to the greatest extent possible
- Students from different cohorts will be attending recess, music lessons, or academic interventions together.
- Maintaining the use of alternative settings for social distancing similar to Spring 2021 (cafeterias, gymnasiums, etc)
- Students will be able to travel throughout the building (elementary specials, changing classes at the secondary level)

What's the same from Spring 2021?

Some cohorting and use of other areas to allow for social distancing.

What's different from Spring 2021?

More flexibility with cohorting to allow students the opportunity to interact with more peers. Secondary schools will reinstate traditional schedules including passing time between classes and locker usage.

Lunches and Cafeteria

- Continue to promote spacing of students by a distance of three feet to the greatest extent possible

What's the same from Spring 2021?

Social distancing mitigation strategies still in place.

What's different from Spring 2021?

Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria to the greatest extent possible.

Music Education

- Current mitigation measures (e.g., bell covers, slit masks, etc.) remain in effect due to increased risk of virus transmission through vapor droplets

What's the same from Spring 2021?

Bell covers, masks with slits, and social distancing in music/ instrumental classes.

What's different from Spring 2021?

Nothing- mitigation strategy is still in place

Physical Education

- Outdoor activities encouraged
- Masks are required for indoor sports/physical education classes.
- Hand hygiene before and after activities

What is the same from Spring 2021?

Use of outdoor spaces and masks for Physical Education classes

What's different from Spring 2021?

Nothing- mitigation strategy is still in place

School Events and Activities

- No immediate return of large assemblies or concerts
- Modified school-wide events to allow for social distancing and mitigation practices
- After-school activities at all levels will be in place to the greatest extent possible.

What's the same from Spring 2021?

No large gatherings

What's different from Spring 2021?

Nothing- mitigation strategy is still in place

Fall Athletics

- Awaiting further guidance from CIAC and CTDPH

Health Screenings and Visitors to Buildings

- Encourage virtual meetings or in-person meetings after school
- Visitors must comply with mitigation strategies inside schools
- Families, students, and staff should continue to screen for any symptoms daily
- Families, students, and staff should not come to school if they are feeling ill

What's the same from Spring 2021?

Use of technology for meetings and monitoring of symptoms

What's different from Spring 2021?

Nothing- mitigation strategy is still in place

Cleaning and Disinfection

- Routine daily cleaning of classrooms, offices, etc.
- Cleaning and disinfection of restrooms, Nurse's Office, and known exposure areas at least once daily
- Routine cleaning of buses

***What's the same from Spring 2021?
Continuing to follow deep cleaning practices.***

***What's different from Spring 2021?
"Deep Cleaning Protocols" are currently not recommended by DPH- mitigation strategy is still in place***

Hand Washing and Sanitizing

- Students and staff will practice regular handwashing
- Hand sanitizer stations provided in classrooms and throughout school
- Same level of extended cleaning from custodial team on regular basis

What's the same from Spring 2021?

Continued handwashing and sanitization strategies.

What's different from Spring 2021?

Nothing- hygiene practices and hand washing should be followed. Though not required, custodial staff will continue with extended cleaning services

Water Fountains

- Water Fountains will remain closed
- Water bottle filling will be available

What's the same from Spring 2021?

Safety measures around water fountains and common areas.

What's different from Spring 2021?

Nothing- mitigation strategy is still in place

Social Distancing

- Students should, when practical and/or feasible, be seated at least 3 feet apart

Classroom Configurations

Cafeteria

Large Group Settings

What's the same from Spring 2021?

No large group gatherings, thoughtful classroom configurations

What's different from Spring 2021?

Lockers will be utilized at the high school level

Shared Classroom Materials

- Students will still be encouraged to use their own materials and minimize the sharing of materials, if possible
- Library materials will be distributed

What's the same from Spring 2021?

Encourage students to have their own set of materials.

What's different from Spring 2021?

Because the virus has been determined to not spread through surfaces, the ability to share classroom materials.

Ventilation

- Recommendations about enhanced ventilation (i.e., maximizing fresh air intake) remain in place

What's the same from Spring 2021?

Ensuring air circulation around buildings and classrooms.

What's different from Spring 2021?

Nothing- mitigation strategy is still in place

2021-2022 Areas of Focus

Preparation and plans for teaching and learning include a focus on:

- The health and safety of all stakeholders including families, students, and staff;
- The continued implementation of in-person learning with a focus on intervention and acceleration;
- The social emotional well-being and mental health of all members of our school district;
- The understanding that the plan will continue to be adaptive and responsive to an ever-changing environment.



Questions?

Thanks!

