

KES Town Hall Meeting – Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 6:00pm

- Town Hall meetings are held once a month. There is an agenda to talk about where we are and where we want to go. Time for questions through the chat at the end of the meeting.
- **Where We Are Now:** when we left, UCPS made plan to use Canvas for K-12. Teachers are ten month employees so while some do plan and play with the program over the summer, many did not get to start using Canvas until the Tuesday before school started.
  - Vaughn, Williams, Nurse Nash and instructional coach made plans for A,B,C models. Teachers were nervous with some plans so there was pivoting. We used paper based resources to buy time for teachers and to start slowly for kids. Rigor was a concern but we would rather celebrate kids through motivational pieces in paper copy materials. We wanted to set kids up for success, the rigor comes later.
  - Want kids to be intrinsically motivated but that is difficult. If we can build that, everyone learns.
  - Stress on teachers for live learning for at-home B kids so all kids went to virtual teachers so that they could focus on in-class students.
  - Teachers were not ready to live stream and teach high quality content to in-school kids. We are getting closer to moving to live lessons and will start slowly.
- **Teams/Zoom:** UCPS moved from Google accounts to Office 365 for security reasons.
  - Needed to train teachers on how to use teams
  - TEAMS used for school use vs business use are different. Can't use some features with educational use TEAMS.
  - Some grade-levels moved to Zoom but there is no tech support if using that
- **Chrome Books:** UCPS ordered new chrome books, they were held up in China. They are now in US. Will be swapped out in end of October when kids are in building and will make a plan for plan D students to swap theirs.
- **Overall Vision:** teachers will OWN their class – be fully run by homeroom teachers for all live instruction. The goal is to give students the best instruction.
  - We want to execute the right instruction the right way.
  - If teachers were 100% virtual or 100% in school it would be easier – hybrid is very hard
- **Dismissal Manager:** Dismissal manager is going well – no need for PA announcements
  - TA checks in with car, notifies classroom. Teacher sends kid, hits send, then secretary knows they are coming. Secretary hits dismiss.
  - Mrs. Williams runs buses – “bus 10” shows up in classrooms
  - Some wifi issues as hiccups with program
- **September 29<sup>th</sup> (two days a week for Plan B):** There are concerns about class size and how to work things out safely.
  - Need to make sure students are 6' apart at all times
  - There is more calculated risk with two days a week – parents need to know and be okay with this
  - KES will move desks, measure things but can't ensure there is no exposure through the 15 minutes (cumulatively throughout day) within six feet apart.

- Staff is planning but we may need to shift kids – not fair for 18 on one day and 12 on another
- No set plan for what two days your child will have but most likely will be M/T and W/Th.
- Teachers will reach out about potential movement of days by end of week.
- **MTSS:** Plans are being made to reach tier 2 and 3 kids. Specials teachers are assisting.
  - Mrs. Kenny covers tier 3
  - Ms. L and Coach K cover tier 2 (currently 26 kids in tier 2).

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Can D kids come back before end of semester?  
No, unless district says so. We are going off of numbers for plan B students for the two day model, so we can't also add more
2. Can Plan B students just come one day?  
Yes, but their contact points are the same (already potentially been exposed).
3. Can there be small group for more reinforcement for Plan B?  
Students should use office hours for questions. The closer we get to live instruction, the easier it will be to ask teachers. Not a lot of students are using office hours – it is encouraged to use that time.
4. Grade 3 BOG testing...can students who are D prepare in any way?  
Mrs. Williams said they are making a plan for D students to come in to test. In the meanwhile, IStation is a great data point.
5. Kinder kids not utilizing in building time – can they enforce virtual kids to stay virtual once they go to two a week?  
Teachers will find a way to balance the numbers to maximize safety.
6. Packet work – can first grade look more fun like kindergarten?  
Teachers didn't want to overwhelm families with extra work. Mr. Vaughn will relay info to first grade teachers about more engaging work.
7. When will the two days a week schedule be confirmed and sent out?  
When Mr. Vaughn knows, parents will likely know at the same time.
8. IStation test?  
It is an adaptive measure, let kids do it on their own so the data is reliable. It is not a grade for students, just used for feedback on kids. Data that comes back is very informative for teacher next steps.
9. Can we have work for the whole week at the beginning of the week?  
This can be problematic if teachers need to change plans based on how well new content was received. Maybe we can switch to two days released at a time.
10. Concerns about IEPs  
This is a stressor on KES and families. We acknowledge these kids need face to face time. District decided not to give them more time. EC teachers working very hard to provide for these families.
11. Can chat be turned off in Zoom?  
Let Mr. Vaughn know who teacher is and he will address it individually with them.

12. There's a lot of printing going on at home  
We will try to send home during in-school time and be more mindful. 5<sup>th</sup> grade is trying to stay digital.
13. Are Fridays for just office hours or classes?  
Friday is for morning meeting, office hours and independent work/
14. Students aren't receiving enough instructional time – 40 minutes isn't enough  
KES is trying to keep balance based on parent feedback in spring. Kids can watch recorded lessons. We know the best learning comes from Q and A and discussion.
15. Issues with Mandarin – was a real opportunity to speak in spring, now not so much  
Attend office hours for more speaking time
16. Can Canvas be more streamlined? There are so many points of reference for work  
Mr. Vaughn acknowledges this is tough. Take time to check in on your child for accountability but don't overwhelm them. Mental health of all family members is important right now. Grades should not be stressed over.
17. Will we use IReady?  
No, school has replaced with IStation. Teachers are receiving training on how to administer tests – read results – use results.
18. Single parent with EL issues – concerns about how to help  
Rely on Raz-Kids and Immersive Reader for extra support. Progress reports are coming soon but will contain caution letter about how little time students have been seen, so don't stress over it.
19. Time with Ms. Dence  
Too many transitions to think about Ms. Dence pulling kids from six classes. Kids in trailers are losing signal when live streaming. It is an issue they are trying to solve
20. Can Specials videos be shorter?  
Students in-school are also using these videos and they are 40 minutes so teachers can have their planning time away from class.
21. Is attendance/grading being tracked for specials?  
The original thought was to have 1-2 projects per year but we pulled back to give more flexibility to families. Mrs. L said some grade 3-5 videos have assignments in Canvas but they are not being graded. They are being used more to gauge engagement.
22. How are 504s being handled?  
Plans to have 504 meetings to discuss meeting kids' needs
23. More kids in building = longer time for temp checks?  
Yes, plan for it. Also more time for dismissal – will probably start earlier to make sure everyone gets out in timely fashion.
24. Will there be school pictures?  
Yes, plan is being made. It will take more than a day. Probably will happen in October.
25. Will there be NC Check Ins?  
We opted out of first one, decision will come from state on the second and third ones. If we don't need the information from the test, why give another test to kids?
26. Can we have access to teacher slides/ppts from pre-recorded lessons?  
Good idea, Mr. Vaughn will look into it. It may take a while to implement since teachers are planned two weeks in advance on Canvas.