

Virtual Building and Grounds Sub-Committee Report
Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
Broadcast from the Media Arts Studio

Called for the purpose of discussing the latest thinking around the Framework for COVID-19 Management and updates to the health & safety protocols.

Sub-Committee Members Present: Jose Luis Rojas, Chair; Member Fantini

Others Present: Mayor Siddiqui; Dr. Carolyn Turk, Deputy Superintendent; Vedad Konjic, Director of Facilities; James Maloney, Chief Operating Officer

Chair Rojas called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm and read the call of the meeting. Chair Rojas turned the meeting over to Dr. Turk for a presentation.

Dr. Turk discussed that these updates are a result of the motion passed by the Committee from Buildings and Grounds ([C22-038](#)). Dr. Turk presented: [DRAFT Updated COVID-19 Management Framework: Guiding Principles & Goals, Metrics, and Mitigation Strategies](#).

Chair Rojas turned the meeting over to other members of the Health and Safety Working Group:

- Dr. Khan discussed the importance of being nimble and the goal is to maximize in-person learning while minimizing the burden on the health care system.
- Mary Elizabeth Cranston discussed the importance of clear communication.

Chair Rojas turned the meeting over to other Sub-Committee members for their questions.

- Member Fantini asked for clarification on how this new framework informs the decisions about the restrictions. Dr. Turk provided that the policies are being updated weekly.
- Member Fantini asked about restrictions on lunches. Dr. Turk reported that it depends on the school, but lunch is slowly getting back to normal.
- Chair Rojas discussed that the Health and Safety Working Group meets frequently and makes changes accordingly. He also inquired about the changes in metrics. Dr. Turk discussed how numbers 8 and number 9 are the ones that have changed, now focused on prevalence. Dr. Doberteen provided further information on the changes.
- Chair Rojas asked for an update on a potential new wave of omicron. The Health and Safety Working Group confirmed they are monitoring what is happening in Europe.

Chair Rojas opened the meeting to the public for their questions/concerns

- Elinor Acipitis, expressed her concerns over the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines and the vaccine mandate. Dr. Doberteen confirmed that there is not a vaccine mandate for COVID, CPSD has certain vaccines required by law to attend school and the COVID vaccine is not one of them, it's required if students elect to participate in voluntary activities.
- Leigh asked for an update on quieter air filtration systems. Vedad Konjic provided context on the timeframe, he is hoping for close to the end of the school year.
- Edward Moyer, echoed Ms. Acipitis' concerns and expressed his concern over separate policies for vaccinated/unvaccinated students

Chair Rojas asked for further clarification on air scrubbers. Mr. Konjic discussed how he went through the current data on air filtration systems in schools and the goal is to have four air exchanges in the room. Also, current HIPPA filters will be removed (will be relocated to cafeterias and gyms), also facilities are not planning to add air filters in rooms that already have four air exchanges.

Ms. Acipitis asked for clarification on ESSER funding.

- Mr. Maloney confirmed the funding is broadly up to the administration's discretion. Chair Rojas offered to share the budget and how the ESSER funds are being used (mainly SEL purposes as well mitigation).

Chair Rojas adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.