



ACTION ITEM: Removal of Appendix A: Meals from Continuation of In-Person Instruction Plan

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Steve Cook, Superintendent

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

New guidance from the CDC and OHA shifted the isolation and quarantine period to a standard 5-days (for students that meet the guidelines), returning on the 6th day with a well-fitted mask and enhanced restrictions through the 10th day. In discussion with the districts in our region and many of the larger districts in the state, I found that every district I have reached out to has implemented these changes completely: 5-day isolation/quarantine period for both students and staff, return on day 6.

The struggle to adopt these recommended changes in Bend-La Pine Schools, is due to the challenge it creates during lunch period at each of our respective schools. We are currently implementing a resource-demanding lunch plan at every school to cohort students as much as possible and to space them out throughout the school as much as possible to minimize spread of the virus and, subsequently, loss of learning time for students due to possible exclusion. These plans vary in exactly how they are being implemented by school; however, the one factor that is absolutely consistent for each school is - the number of staff, supervision hours, and demand for coverage to meet the expectations of our responsibilities, to live within the parameters of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and to ensure the safety of our students and staff, have completely tapped our resources. Any new demands or additional asks to the plates of our teachers, our administrators and the staff in our schools will take a tremendous toll on staff morale.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

Allow schools and administrators the flexibility to use their cafeterias as they are used to, spreading kids out to the extent possible by removing the current lunch plan expectations. This would free up a tremendous amount of supervision responsibility and a tremendous number of rooms/spaces that are currently being used to cohort student lunch groups. It would also provide the opportunity to give a lot of relief to staff who can't use their rooms during student lunch due to students eating their lunches in these rooms and reduce the load on custodial staff and teachers who are cleaning lunch mess in many classrooms. It would also reduce the operational moves needed at the building level for administrators and staff to be prepared to eat indoors or outdoors on any given day when it warms a bit. In return for removing this lunch plan, schools would be expected to have a supervised lunch space for isolated students returning to school for days 6-10 that was separate from the general population during the lunch period. Each of these spaces would be unique to the facilities in which they are operated in our 33 schools. In each instance, we would ask that the parameters of the space be as follows: separate from the main lunch space, well-ventilated, students spaced apart, shortened time unmasked.

This recommendation aligns us to the current guidelines of all of our public health partners, brings us in closer alignment with the plans of other districts both in the region and the state and most importantly could provide some supervision relief to our beleaguered staff.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

I move to remove Appendix A: Meals from the Continuation of In-Person Instruction Plan.