

Battlefield High School
Principal's Advisory Council (PAC)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 20, 2020

Meeting called to order by Wendi Gruninger, PAC Chair

Virtual Meeting 17 participants

Updates from Mr. Ferrera:

Mr. Ferrera shared that since schools closed in March, high school principals have been meeting weekly, spending extensive amounts of time together discussing virtual learning, and the re-opening of schools behind the pandemic. Many options have been shared and the large concern with 50/50 model is the effective implementation of it and ensuring that all stakeholders are safe and are able to produce and receive quality teaching/learning. The largest concern is accommodating both student and staff needs. Tier 1(staff who are in the high-risk category for COVID and/or care for or reside with someone who is high-risk) being a huge concern. BHS has the largest population of Tier one staff.

Updates from SACI – Wendi Gruninger

In the SACI meeting updates from Dr. Walts included him noting the medical metrics that were being used to make decisions about schools opening. With that the largest areas of consideration include staffing (Tier 1), and technology. The school system has been met with parents and students advocating for themselves with a focus on mental and health support for students and staff. Many students desire to return to school, but there is a significant population of students who have embraced the virtual learning, which has led to the question of whether or not a virtual academy will be a continued option for those students requesting it. Dr. Walts referenced the PWCS website that is a great resource for all and contains detailed information regarding the county plan for re-opening and its response to the pandemic. Finally, Dr. Walts encouraged SACI members to encourage their communities to share and come up with feedback and ideas that will help the school board make informed decisions that meet the needs of all stakeholders.

Updates from Jennifer Wall, School Board Representative

She did not have many new updates, but the pending meeting (Oct. 21) would provide detailed information on the 50/50 roll-out plan tentatively scheduled for Nov. 10, 2020.

Open Share

The group discussed the issue with students in classes and cameras being on or off. Identified that while students can not be required to keep their cameras on, it is encouraged as it would make it more efficient for teachers who are teaching in the virtual platforms.

The group had a brief discussion regarding the different systems speaking to each other and the tremendous amount of work teachers have due to the systems (Canvas/Gradebooks) not fully speaking to each other. The group acknowledged how hard everyone is working, and how smoothly despite the challenges the school year is going.

Supporting Slides

Summary of Superintendent's Advisory Council on Instruction Meeting



Meeting date: Thursday, October 15, 2020

Purpose of SACI

- To gain feedback from all schools in PWCS via reps from advisory councils
- To distribute information to school level advisory councils
- Interested in COMMENDATIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS
- SACI produces annual report presented to Dr. Walts
 - “Quick fixes”
 - Long term focus areas



Interesting Statistics

- PWCS is the 35th largest school system out of 16,000 nationwide
- Average number of students in a school system – 3,500-4,000 (PWCS has around 90,000 students)
- From summer to October survey, 14,000 students changed from 50/50 to virtual for a total of 54%
- As of 1 month ago, 80% of all schools in VA were all virtual (0 cases in rural areas)
- PWCS just received \$15.9M of CARES money – one-time use by 12/31/2020
- 385,000 items of PPE have been purchased
- 1 million meals have been distributed since March
- 44,000 laptops have been issued
- Graduation rate is 93%



Highlights from Dr. Walts



- Decisions driven by medical metrics from VDH, VDE, and state government
- Staffing is huge factor in return to in-person learning – 900 “Tier 1” teachers (20 at BHS)
- Necessary technology not fully installed for in-person learning
- Virtual learning “academy” is likely
- Meal distribution – PWCS gets reimbursed from every meal kit distributed
- Workload issues – Start with teacher and escalate if there is no resolution
 - Encourage students to advocate for themselves
- Strong focus on mental health support for both students and staff
- Questions? Go to www.pwcs.edu for FAQs, Health Plan, Return to Learn and Return to Work Plans