

Pima County Back to School Committee  
Meeting

Monday, August 10, 2020  
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM  
County Administration East, Board Hearing Room  
130 W. Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Tucson, Arizona

Video Conference/Telephonic Meeting

Meeting was viewable on Pima County's Facebook Live  
(<https://www.facebook.com/pimacountyarizona/>) or Channel 96.

All meeting materials may be found at [www.pima.gov/backtoschool](http://www.pima.gov/backtoschool) .

**MEETING SUMMARY**

1. Call to Order

Pima County Superintendent Dustin Williams began the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

2. Roll Call

**Committee Members Present**

Dr. David Dumon, Altar Valley School District  
Todd Jaeger, Amphitheater Unified District  
Roxana Rico, Continental Elementary District  
Dr. David Baker, Flowing Wells Unified District  
Tina Norton, Pima County Joint Technological  
Dr. Dan Streeter, Marana Unified School District  
Manuel Valenzuela, Sahuarita Unified School District  
Steve Holmes, Sunnyside Unified School District  
Dr. Scott Hagerman, Tanque Verde Unified District  
John Carruth, Vail Unified School District  
Charlene Mendoza, AZ College Preparatory  
Academy  
Jessica Montierth Puls, Presidio School  
Larry Speta, Southern AZ Community Academy  
Sylvia Calmelat, Southgate Academy  
Julie Sherrill, The Gregory School  
Sheri Dahl, Catholic Diocese  
Cameron Taylor, Imago Dei Middle School  
Kay Sullivan, Salpointe Catholic High School

**Committee Members Absent**

Dr. Robert Dooley, Ajo Unified School  
District  
Dr. Edna Morris, Baboquivari Unified  
District  
Dr. Mary Kamerzell, Catalina Foothills  
Unified District

**Staff that Addressed the Committee**

Pima County:  
Chuck Huckelberry, County Administrator  
Dustin Williams, Superintendent  
Dr. Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy  
County Administrator & Chief Medical  
Officer, Health and Community Services  
Dr. Terry Cullen, Public Health Director,  
Pima County Health Department

3. Brief Review of Status of Covid-19 in Pima County and its Implications For K-12 Instruction

Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry welcomed the Committee, extended the County's appreciation for the Committee's participation, and emphasized that Pima County's primary goal is to support schools in preparing to return to in-person instruction when ready.

Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer Dr. Francisco Garcia and Public Health Director Dr. Theresa Cullen provided a brief overview of Pima County's COVID-19 progression and current status. The [presentation](#) showed that current data and numbers are still not where they need to be for re-opening of schools. The Health Department developed the Public Health Criteria dashboard that shows the status of 9 criteria that help to evaluate the current status of COVID in the community and the health infrastructure capacity. Currently, the Public Health Criteria dashboard shows all Disease Criteria as red or as "Criteria not met", while the criteria under Healthcare Capacity and Public Health Capacity have a mix of both red and yellow (Progress). At this time, the Health Department is looking for the Health Criteria to all move to yellow before any consideration to reopen in a hybrid type model of learning. Protocols should be in place for schools opening in any type of modified scenario. (COVID numbers and data found at the Health Department website at <https://webcms.pima.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=527452>)

4. Review Arizona Department of Health Services School Guidance and Metrics Released August 6, 2020: Where we are Today

Public Health Director Dr. Theresa Cullen provided the August 6, 2020 [Safely Returning to In-Person Instruction](#) released by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) on guidance and metrics for schools. The metrics and benchmarks are somewhat similar to Pima County's, with some differences in percentage allowances and metrics considered, which include Cases, Percent Positivity and COVID-like Illness. The State recommends that these health benchmarks fall within the moderate or minimal category in all 3 benchmarks for two weeks prior to providing hybrid model of learning (some students in class and some students remote learning). Pima County looks at critical health infrastructure as well as disease in its criteria that allows for a more comprehensive assessment on COVID in the community.

Given current data, 'normal' will not exist in the near future, and schools will need to look at mitigation. These mitigation protocols will not only help in future reopening of schools, but also to build the steps to respond to these kinds of threats in the future.

5. Public Health Principles to Guide Decision Making and Planning for Face-To-Face Classroom Instruction

Dr. Theresa Cullen's presentation discussed the 6 Public Health Principles to help frame guidance developed for phased school reopening – hybrid model to ultimately traditional face-To-face classroom instruction. Due to pandemic, geography of schools is no longer the traditional baseline, as these principles and guidance should be considered community-wide. Dr. Cullen also discussed the need to come to some

degree of concurrence to move forward together as a group for the health and welfare of all students. When all criteria move to yellow, schools should move together to consider re-opening for hybrid instruction, instead making independent decisions based on geography.

The County will seek affirmation from the Committee on these 6 principles at the August 14, meeting.

Superintendent Williams stressed the need to be united in the approach to re-opening the schools.

A committee member commented that the sooner isolation guidance or mitigation protocols are developed, the better. Dr. Garcia responded that these are still being developed and that it makes sense to hold off on any hybrid model of learning until that guidance is solid and that disease indicators are better. Layered mitigation makes sense as well, where a school cannot meet one, but can meet another alternative mitigation measure. The Health Department will provide tools for the schools to access information and guidance. A Health Department liaison team will be made available to the schools by Friday, August 14. Pima County would like to provide assistance to schools with develop Mitigation Plans prior to reopening, per the Governor's Executive Order..

#### Comments and Questions received during meeting:

Comments were generally positive and supportive.

What is testing turn-around time? Currently 48 hours, goal is 24 hours.

What is the difference between the different tests? Explanation provided on the three: PCR, Antibody and Antigen

When will interscholastics, activities and extra-curriculars be allowed? Interscholastics should not proceed until all criteria are green. Certain activities where protocols can be met can start, but it is still premature.

Do you see the County dashboard criteria and the State criteria ever aligning? Our criteria essentially do align with the State's criteria. Both the County and State criteria will be integrated into one dashboard.

Who should be tested? Anyone who is symptomatic, exposed or possible transmission.

How many County criteria have to be yellow to allow limited in-person learning with layered mitigation? All criteria must be yellow. It may be 6 to 7 weeks from now to go to hybrid, based on current trajectory of data.

Can interscholastics, practices with mitigation begin? Competition/interscholastics should not resume at this time, but low impact activities that meet health protocols (distancing and others) such as tennis, golf, swim and similar can resume.

6. Next Meeting and Agenda Items

Dr. Garcia suggested that the next Back to School Committee meeting be focused on the concurrence of the guiding principles for the re-opening of Pima County Schools. He further asked that Committee members send any objections or concerns about the guiding principles to Dr. Cullen, Superintendent Williams or himself prior to the next meeting.

Superintendent Williams concluded the meeting at 10:40 am and noted that the next meeting would be held on Friday, August 14, 2020, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

DRAFT