

Pima County Back to School Committee
Meeting

Monday, August 14, 2020
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
County Administration East, Board Hearing Room
130 W. Congress, 1st Floor
Tucson, Arizona

Video Conference/Telephonic Meeting

Due to technical difficulties with Pima County's Facebook Live, the meeting was only able to be broadcasted on Channel 96.

Meeting Video - <https://youtu.be/9AT4OWIDRWw>

All meeting materials may be found at www.pima.gov/backtoschool.

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Call to Order

Pima County Superintendent Dustin Williams began the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Committee Members Present

Dr. Robert Dooley, Ajo Unified School District
Dr. David Dumon, Altar Valley School District
Dr. Denise Bartlett, Catalina Foothills Unified District
Roxana Rico, Continental Elementary District
Dr. David Baker, Flowing Wells Unified District
Kathy Prather, 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
Dr. Gabriel Trujillo, Tucson 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
Kay Sullivan, Salpointe Catholic High School

Committee Members Absent

Dr. Edna Morris, Baboquivari Unified District
John Carruth, Vail Unified School District
Cameron Taylor, Imago Dei Middle School
Todd Jaeger, Amphitheater 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
Brian Eller, COVID-Schools Liaison
Pima County Health Department

3. Affirmation of Public Health Principles Presented to Guide Decision Making and Planning for In-school Learning

Dr. Cullen went over her [presentation](#) slides and briefly reviewed each of the six principles presented at the August 10, 2020 Committee meeting. The Committee affirmed the principles as discussed.

4. Discussion and Affirmation of Public Health Criteria to be Met Prior to Transitioning to a Hybrid Model of In-school Learning

At the last Committee meeting, Dr. Cullen noted the metrics and benchmarks released by the State Health Department (ADHS) were similar to Pima County's Public Health Criteria (dashboard) and would be reviewed and integrated with the County's criteria into one document. Two of the State's metrics are nearly identical to the County's Disease Criteria, which are Cases and Percent Positivity. The third State metric, COVID-like illness, was included to align criteria. The updates have already been made to the Disease Criteria. The Healthcare Capacity criteria and Public Health Capacity criteria will remain unchanged. The updated criteria dashboard is on the Health Department's [website](#).

Superintendent Williams asked how we can gauge when to move forward with opening but avoiding closing and opening. Dr. Garcia noted that is why the County does not fully rely on the State's metrics and instead also includes criteria 2 (Healthcare Capacity) and 3 (Public Health Capacity) to work to prevent closing and opening scenarios for schools. These two additional criteria are important to consider for a comprehensive view of COVID in the community. Dr. Garcia further indicated that when criteria move to yellow, we can move to modified in-person classroom instruction. It is important to understand that yellow in Sunnyside Unified might look different than yellow in Tanque Verde Unified. We would need multiple weeks in all yellow to ensure safer opening.

Question were posed on whether the COVID-like illness (CLI) criteria would change once the flu season begins. Dr. Cullen responded that while there would be some crossover between the flu and CLI, they are tracked and reported separately.

Mr. Huckelberry informed the Committee that the Arizona Border Counties Coalition sent a letter to Governor Ducey regarding at-risk youth coming back to school on August 17, bringing up concerns over the lack of consideration of capacity of facilities to meet that request. A determination of how many students would return needed to occur, followed by an analysis of at-risk youth and available space. The letter suggests schools should be given greater flexibility to make these decisions.

5. Health Department Resources and Assistance Available to Schools for Developing School Mitigation Plans

Brian Eller, with the Pima County Health Department (PCHD), explained that the Health Department's role is to support and ensure the return to school is as safe as can be. He discussed the various resources and tools that would be available to schools, such as establishing a School Liaison team, contact tracing (CT) liaisons to assist schools with CT efforts, a portal for school access to planning tools and other links, supporting District-

level COVID-19 mitigation planning and other resources. Mr. Eller also describes planning assessment tools as schools begin planning and developing mitigation plans as required by Executive Order 2020-51. The PCHD's role will be that of providing technical assistance.

Comments and Questions received during meeting:

Great that criteria were aligned, but will PCHD's Criteria 2 and 3 hold up moving to other yellow zones? The County is slowly progressing in this criterion more than in Disease Criteria. Criteria 2 and 3 will not hold up the other zones.

What is definition of at-risk? Dr. Garcia responded that we would want it to be a broad definition to serve the schools but can evolve if needed.

What is the process if schools open and something happens next week? The PCHD will roll out a phone number to call if acute issue arise. Identifying ways to isolate will be critical.

Drs. Garcia and Cullen said we are not out of the woods yet, but County epidemiology data shows progress little by little. They asked that schools reach out to PCHD with any additional questions or need for technical assistance. A FAQ site is also being developed.

Superintendent Williams closed by saying that working as a united front will be the most important attribute and asked for schools to all remote instruction as long as possible given data.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:56 pm.