

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 27, 2020

## Call to Order

President Fralick called the Study Session of the Shoreline Board of Directors to order via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. on July 27, 2020. Rebecca Miner, Superintendent; Adam Kastel, District Event Coordinator; and Kathie Schindler, Executive Assistant, attended this meeting at the Administrative Offices at the Shoreline Center.

## Roll Call

Present: Heather Fralick, President; David Wilson, Vice President; Sara Betnel, Member; Meghan Jernigan, Member; and Rebeca Rivera, Member. *(Since this meeting was being conducted via Zoom, President Fralick had a visual that all board members were in attendance.)*

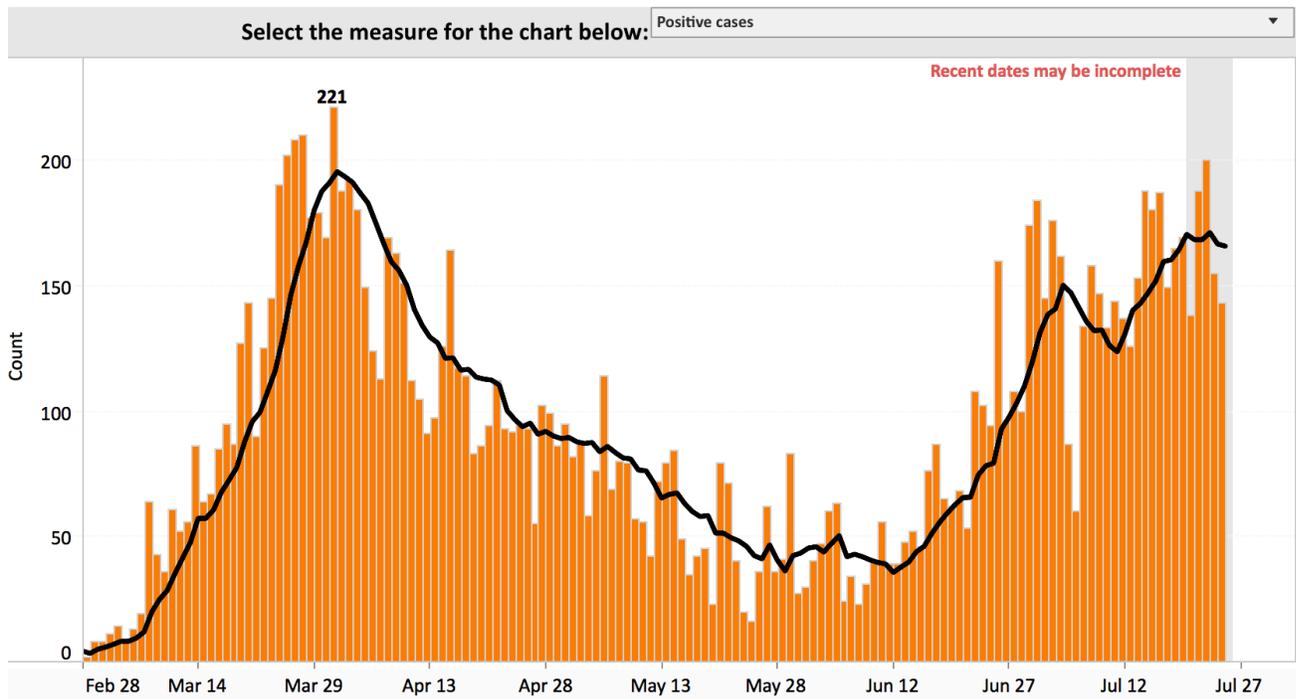
The following topic was discussed:

## Reopening of Schools Update

Ms. Miner began by once again thanking the community for their feedback. Thousands have participated in the surveys, town halls and emails. She realizes that time is a limited commodity so she truly appreciates individuals taking the time to share their thoughts and concerns. She also acknowledged that these are challenging times and the recommendations presented here would be particularly difficult for some of our families.

As a reminder, schools were closed on March 12. On that date, there were 52 new positive cases of COVID-19 in King County. On June 24, there were 98 new positive cases and as of Friday, July 24, there were 188 new cases. It is an ever-changing landscape. The following charts were shared.

## KING COUNTY POSITIVE CASES



### ADDITIONAL KING COUNTY DATA

Select city to compare: All King County

**Summary of counts for All King County**

	Count	New since yesterday	Percent	Rate per 100,000 residents	Compared to King County rate
Tested	271,301	562		12,186.2	●
<b>Positives</b>	<b>14,433</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>5.3% of all tested</b>	<b>648.3</b>	●
Hospitalizations	1,891	14	13.1% of all positive cases	84.9	●
Deaths due to COVID-19 illness	640	0	4.4% of all positive cases	28.7	●

**Legend:** ▼ Lower than overall King County rate   ● Similar to overall King County rate   ▲ Higher than overall King County rate

### ADDITIONAL SHORELINE DATA

Select city to compare: Shoreline

**Summary of counts for Shoreline**

	Count	New since yesterday	Percent	Rate per 100,000 residents	Compared to King County rate
Tested	7,722	16		13,698.8	▲
<b>Positives</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6.0% of all tested</b>	<b>817.8</b>	▲
Hospitalizations	95	0	20.6% of all positive cases	168.5	▲
Deaths due to COVID-19 illness	59	0	12.8% of all positive cases	104.7	▲

**Legend:** ▼ Lower than overall King County rate   ● Similar to overall King County rate   ▲ Higher than overall King County rate

Of particular note is the percentage of positive cases of all tested—5.3% in King County and 6.0% in Shoreline. Recently, CDC Director Redfield indicated that in terms of opening schools, exceptions might need to be made for areas where there are hotspots. In part, the definition of being a hotspot was having more than a 5% positive test rate. In the two slides above, Shoreline has higher rates than the overall King County rates in all categories shown.

Ms. Miner reported that she and her superintendent colleagues across the region and the country agree that they should not be in a position of having to be de facto epidemiologists. They need support from the states and counties to assist in making decisions that are in the best interest of students and staff.

Patty Hayes, Director of Public Health—Seattle & King County, was very generous with her time this past Friday to speak with Ms. Miner about Shoreline specifically. Here are some of the thoughts she shared:

- The cases of COVID-19 have reached numbers close to where we were during the first surge. We are close to having 100 cases per 100,000, which would be considered high risk (at 95 last week).
- The Governor’s dial-back strategies set in motion July 23 may help but did not have a big Phase 2 new strategy, so Public Health is evaluating the status of the outbreak on a weekly basis with the King County Executive.
- Ms. Hayes cannot say that the outbreak will be under control enough for schools to open without a risk of a significant number of outbreaks.
- They have asked, as a region, for the state to provide a statewide metric and then continue to work to get this to school districts.
- To assist when students are brought back, their team is working on a toolkit and continued guidance needs.
- A critical conversation will be about the roles in contact tracing and expectations of response times. This is a key issue when outbreaks happen in schools. Additional guidance is expected related to school outbreak response.

Ms. Miner shared family survey results regarding ranked preferences of learning models.

### FAMILIES

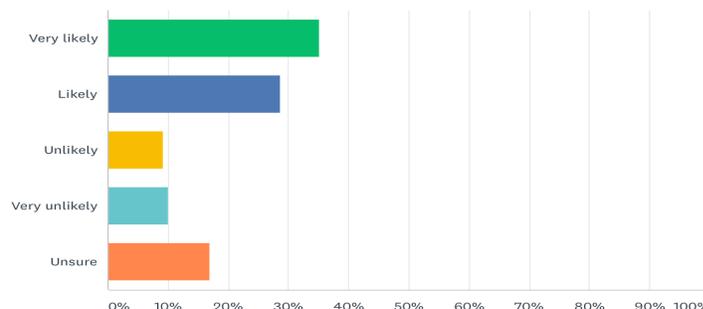
Model	Ranked #1	Ranked #2	Ranked #3	Total	Score
Hybrid Learning	33.78% 1,566	62.55% 2,900	3.67% 170	4,636	2.30
Remote Continuous Learning 2.0	39.74% 1,859	23.73% 1,110	36.53% 1,709	4,678	2.03
Onsite (in-person) Learning	22.72% 1,280	13.66% 631	58.62% 2,707	4,618	1.69

Director Betnel asked if these numbers included Spanish families. Ms. Miner responded they did not but they would be posted on the website. These numbers are English speaking as well as a few others that called into the survey help line.

### STAFF

If health and safety protocols recommended by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control are in place, how likely is it that you will come back to work in-person this fall?

Answered: 948 Skipped: 3



Over 60% of staff chose “likely” or “very likely” to return to work in person this fall. Approximately one third of staff indicated they had conditions that would put them into a “higher risk” category for COVID-19.

Ms. Miner’s recommendation for reopening school in the fall:

- Open in a remote model
- Follow OSPI information around that model (see below)
- Continue to develop a hybrid plan in preparation for return (this is imperative)

OSPI guidance includes:

- 1) Work with community partners to identify child care options for school-aged students whose families don’t have the option to stay home with a child each day;
- 2) Address gaps in connectivity and technology access so each student has sufficient opportunity to continue their learning outside of the classroom (confirmation has been received that there are now hotspots for every family that needed them but didn’t have them in the spring and there are enough devices for every student);
- 3) Continue providing school meals to the students who rely on them; and
- 4) Utilize their local data to determine which of their students need additional intensive learning supports and provide those supports remotely if possible or in-person when that is the only effective delivery method (more details to come on this).

The proposed timeline includes:

- OSPI plan for returning will be completed by staff this week
- Three board meetings will be held on Monday, August 3
  - Regular (business only) board meeting at 5:30 (already scheduled)
  - Special board meeting to approve reopening plan (new)
  - Study session (already scheduled) on the budget

Questions from board members:

Regarding the OSPI plan that staff will be completing, Director Jernigan asked if this plan was actual training. Ms. Miner responded no, but that OSPI has developed a plan that all districts must complete and be approved by their school boards. This plan must be submitted two weeks prior to the first day of school. It is very specific about how the district will serve students and staff in the building, e.g. hand washing, etc. The plan will be brought forward for the Board’s consideration and recommended approval on August 3.

Recognizing the ever-changing dynamics, President Fralick asked if there was a timeline for re-evaluating conditions for transitioning to some form of an in-person model. Ms. Miner stated that talking with Patty Hayes from Public Health-Seattle & King County was incredibly helpful in this regard. Ms. Hayes didn’t disagree with the decision to go remote for the reasons shared earlier in the presentation. They are working very hard to support superintendents with a metric of considerations for phasing back into schoolhouses. At this time, there aren’t any real timelines; it is likely the disease will determine the timeline. Additionally, superintendents would be meeting virtually the following day with Superintendent Reykdal. Districts still haven’t received guidance as to what extent apportionment might be affected.

President Fralick also asked if there was a plan for communicating updates to families as information comes in. Parents were notified on Friday (July 24) that the information shared at this meeting with the Board (PowerPoint, survey results, links to August 3 meetings) would be emailed in an update on Tuesday (July 28). The next update was planned for the following Tuesday (August

4) the day after the August 3 board meetings. It is anticipated that weekly updates will continue (but possibly moving back to Fridays).

Director Betnel expressed appreciation to Ms. Miner for reaching out to Patty Hayes. She asked if there were any plans to combine information from King County and Snohomish County, given that many of our staff and families live in Snohomish County. Ms. Miner responded that King County is considered our “umbrella” organization; however, she was now participating in weekly meetings with the Snohomish County superintendents to get input/feedback from them as well. They are hoping for a statewide metric that really makes it about the science.

Director Jernigan asked if the Spanish survey results were going to be shared with the Board. Ms. Miner responded that she had emailed all the results to the Board earlier in the day.

Director Rivera asked if the Spanish survey results could be incorporated into the PowerPoint before it goes out to families the next day. Ms. Miner shared the results on screen; however, she didn't want to send something out tomorrow that was altered from what was presented at this meeting as it stands as the official record. Sharing them allows them to be reflected in the minutes. It was a relatively small sample size of respondents (55). The chart indicated a relative split between the hybrid and remote models. In the English-speaking families' survey, the percentage of respondents who chose a hybrid model as #1 was 33.78% and in the Spanish-speaking family survey, it was 33.33% (almost identical). However, the number of Spanish-speaking respondents who chose the hybrid model as #2 was significantly less, at 47.92%; whereas 62.55% of English-speaking respondents selected the hybrid model as #2. On the rated scores, remote learning scored 2.19; hybrid scored 2.15 and in-school model scored 1.65. Again, these results were scheduled to be emailed to families the following day.

Director Rivera also stated that the online model brings greater hurdles for those students furthest from educational justice. There were a significant number of respondents who chose the hybrid model. She wanted to be sure that the District would be making accommodations to address those specific needs in assisting families to adapt to the online model. Ms. Miner stated that her recommendation to shift to remote does not change the fact that one of the cornerstones of any plan would be our race and equity policy as well as our race and equity decision-making tool.

Director Betnel asked when more information might be shared around how staff intend to make the remote model work in terms of making connections, welcoming families that are new to school, e.g. kindergartners, sixth graders moving to middle school, etc. Ms. Miner responded that specific information about what might be possible in person and what might not be possible probably won't be available at the next meeting on August 3; however, specific information in terms of the specifics required by OSPI for the submission of the plan would be shared. The upside is that we were always planning to do some remote. Unlike in the spring when schools closed, we have had much more time to think about different ways of creating a more robust remote model. There will be more specific details on August 3 but some details just won't be available at that time, e.g. when will my child get to meet his/her teacher in person.

Director Betnel asked if there might be a need for shifting schedules or instructional hours and providing additional professional development. Ms. Miner stated that would be very challenging at this point. We are not being given any breaks from OSPI or the State Board of Education on the number of required days or instructional hours. We still have 180 days of instruction with 1,027 hours. As has been mentioned many times during the last several months, there is no expectation for receiving any extra funding so as far as more professional development, there wouldn't be any funding to cover those costs. Ms. Miner stated she did not anticipate any changes to the calendar.

Director Jernigan asked if families could expect some form of an alternative option to remote learning that might include opportunities for in-person connectivity. Ms. Miner stated she did not foresee going back, at this time, to the hybrid model (presented in previous meetings) with some days in school and some days online. The connections would remain in a remote format. Director Rivera added that at Ridgecrest, there had been discussions about sharing the directory information so that families could connect via email.

Director Wilson called attention to the first bullet on slide #15 regarding OSPI guidance. It reads: “Work with community partners to identify child care options for school-aged students whose families don’t have the option to stay home with a child each day.” He assumed there would likely be a large percentage of families needing childcare. Ms. Miner reported that was a question on the survey and many families responded that they did have childcare options in place if the district was in a hybrid model. However, the data isn’t perfect, e.g. only about 10% of respondents indicated a need to access school meals (which is below actual). Additionally, this slide refers to OSPI guidance which would cover districts statewide. The vast majority of districts do not have before and after school childcare options like Shoreline. However, last spring when all schools in Washington closed, it was noted that there was not a tremendous demand for childcare even after the opportunities were expanded beyond only serving essential worker families. Regarding the third bullet on that same slide, Director Betnel asked for clarification since the third bullet spoke about only identifying childcare options rather than providing them. Ms. Miner reiterated what she mentioned above--that Shoreline was in a different position than most districts in that we also provide childcare. At this time, it is not known exactly what the District will be able to offer but we will be working to support families with that need in a variety of ways. Director Wilson extended gratitude for continuing to provide food to those students who rely on school meals.

Director Betnel asked if there would be opportunities for staff to teach from their individual classrooms. Ms. Miner replied that she would like to wait for the discussions with individual bargaining groups to conclude before answering that question. Once those discussions are completed, she will inform the Board. Director Betnel also stated that it would be great to hear in an upcoming session how the District is planning on addressing specific communication to families as that was something she noted in the feedback from the community. Ms. Miner indicated she had seen the same feedback from families as well as students.

Director Betnel spoke about a community effort for families to support each other in care and learning; support from the district in that endeavor could make that even more successful.

Director Jernigan reported that three board members in the Seattle School District shared a resolution in support of an outdoor school model. She asked for more information as to whether or not that was a possibility in Shoreline. Ms. Miner did attempt to research what Seattle was doing in that regard and it does appear to be coming from the Board rather than the District, so there wasn’t much information available from Seattle School District. One of the challenges Ms. Miner sees is that we wouldn’t be able to have all our students on the playgrounds and keep them socially distanced. Additionally, our teachers have zero training in how to meet the needs of students and advancing the learning standards in an outdoor setting. Speaking from personal experience as a teacher of social studies, Spanish, language arts and special education, Ms. Miner shared that she had no idea how she would have taught those subjects in an outdoor environment; nor, did she think she was unique among her peers in feeling that way. There would also be weather issues as we get into the rainy season. There could be equity issues if classes were moved to parks but parents had to provide the transportation to those locations. In her opinion, focusing on the remote and hybrid options were better plans for the District at this time. Director Jernigan asked if outdoor

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education could possibly be considered as part of the phasing to the hybrid model. Ms. Miner agreed that might be a better fit for such an option, particularly around music education.

Director Betnel inquired if there would be an evaluation component to gathering feedback and assessing the success of remote learning 2.0 to determine what adjustments might be necessary. Ms. Miner responded that the District had made improvements in surveying and gathering feedback from our staff and community in a strategic and organized manner. She felt it was everyone’s hope that we are not in a remote learning environment so long that multiple loops of feedback would be warranted and yet we need to be prepared to do so in a variety of ways. Ms. Miner stated, “There is an old saying in education—monitor and adjust.”

Next Monday, in addition to the regularly scheduled “business only” meeting, there would now be a special board meeting to consider approval of the District’s reopening plan and a study session on the topic of the 2020-2021 budget.

Ms. Miner thanked the Board for taking the time to consider this information. She also noted that she is a firm believer that public schoolhouses and serving children in them is what allows us the best opportunities to meet the educational needs of the children in our community. This decision to begin with remote learning is not one she made lightly.

Board members thanked Ms. Miner for all the work that has been done, not just these last few months, but over the entire school year. Ms. Miner gave credit to her amazing team.

Adjournment: 6:31 p.m.

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Heather Fralick, School Board President

Attest: September 10, 2020

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Rebecca L. Miner, Secretary to Board of Directors