

From: Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 7/1/2020 4:13:25 PM
To: Anita Fowler <[REDACTED]>; angela durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>;
Cc: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: 2020 school year

Ms. Fowler,

Thank you for your email. The board has been receiving many emails from parents over the past few weeks about what it will look like for WCS students return to school . Please know that the district administration is utilizing many sources to help them determine what is the best way for school to start back. Below is additional information that board member Eric Welch sent out to a parent with a similar concern. He has captured very well what the district is doing to come up with the best plan possible.

I'd like to provide some additional context on WCS' back to school planning, which is being led by our Safety and Security Director, Michael Fletcher. Mr. Fletcher is also the primary architect of our school safety plan as it relates to other threats against our students and much of it has been copied in part or whole by other districts across the state as well state agencies. Mr. Fletcher was hired by Williamson County Schools from the Williamson County Sheriff's Office where, among other accomplishments in his 15+ years, he established the tactical medical officer program for the department's SWAT team and still serves as a senior operator. Prior to that, Mr. Fletcher worked for Williamson Medical Center as an Emergency Medical Services Supervisor for 15+ years as well as being a certified Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic in the State of Tennessee. He is currently in his seventh year with Williamson County Schools and has a detailed understanding of our district logistics and operations in addition to being a trained medical professional. I believe he is uniquely suited to the task at hand and I am also confident WCS has the best School Safety Director in Tennessee.

The Board was presented with a draft version of the plan at our June 11 work session and will meet on July 13th to be presented the completed version.

The Operations Plan Mr. Fletcher is preparing has been drafted in conjunction with other WCS department leaders, outside agencies and medical professionals that his position and more than 35 years of experience in the field give him access to. These contacts include but are not limited to individuals within:

- *The State Epidemiologist's Office*
- *The Tennessee Department of Health*
- *The Tennessee Department of Education*
- *Williamson County Medical Center*
- *County and City Sheriffs Office*
- *EMA/Public Safety*
- *City Administrators*
- *The Franklin Special School District*
- *Williamson County Education Assn*
- *Special Education Parent Groups*
- *School Safety Personnel in other School Districts*

In addition to first-hand collaboration with these contacts, he is also incorporating the latest information from the Center for Disease Control and World Health Organization in his plans to keep all our students AND staff as safe as is reasonably possible. I want to call out that I'm including staff in this as we have dual responsibility to our students and the adults in the classroom, many who fall into at-risk demographics. This includes but is not limited to 1-in-20 teachers, 1-in-4 substitute teaches, and 1-in-2 bus drivers being 60 years of age or older.

This is a tremendous task. The Corona virus has been diagnosed in the United States for only about 160 days and in Tennessee for only about a hundred days and we are learning more daily. We are simultaneously moving closer to the first day of school and having thousands of students and adults come in regular close proximity for the first time in the County since early March and we aren't taking this lightly.

I hope this information was helpful. Once again, thank you for taking the time to write and express your concerns

From: Anita Fowler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 3:47 PM
To: Angela Durham <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>
Subject: 2020 school year

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Do not click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I have two children at Nolensville High School who will be seniors this year. Both want to be in school in the classroom, but I'm uncomfortable with this if the district does not mandate everyone wear a mask. It puts me in the horrible position of having to possibly deny my children a senior year with their friends.

School has always been a breeding ground for germs. Sending children during a pandemic without masks regardless of the percentage of community spread seems to me a certainty that many will get sick with Covid-19. Additionally, they will bring it home to relatives. We are older parents and could lose our lives if infected. How would 17-year-olds handle life without any parents and with the knowledge that they probably brought the virus home which killed their parents? My kids have no grandparents able to help nor local aunts or uncles.

Kids need to be in school, but if they aren't required to wear masks, they will likely not get to be there very long before the virus is rampant. Parents want their kids in school. Requiring masks is the best way to keep kids in school. It seems prudent. It also keeps teachers safer. Wearing masks = kids stay in school longer.

I have been proud of the decisions WCS has made especially this spring when classes were suspended. Your handling of the situation including grading policy has been excellent. Thank you for keeping our kids and their families' safety in mind. Not requiring masks would be a departure from these prudent decisions.

Regardless of whether you make masks optional or allow exceptions for undocumented medical conditions, will you allow kids to switch back and forth at will between remote and in-classroom experiences? If not, many kids will come to school sick as they always have—sometimes even masking temperatures by taking drugs before coming to school.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts. I understand that you are all in a difficult position and that it isn't always possible to make everyone happy, but I hope you'll continue to make decisions by prioritizing safety.

Regards,
Anita Fowler
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 7/1/2020 2:42:48 PM
To: Kati <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Percentage Information

Thanks, Kati, for your suggestion. Our medical professionals who are involved in our planning are advising the district on the metric and will continue to do so.

Nancy

Nancy Garrett
District 12, Williamson County School Board
[REDACTED]

From: Kati <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 2:36 PM
To: Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>
Cc: CO Schoolboard Group <[REDACTED]>; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Percentage Information

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Do not click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks for your response. I would urge you all to consider the number of available hospital beds vs the number of cases, as that is what matters in terms of treating severe cases.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 1, 2020, at 9:39 AM, Eric Welch <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hello Kati. Thank you for your email and sharing your thoughts.

To provide some additional context on WCS' back to school planning, this is being led by our Safety and Security Director, Michael Fletcher. Mr. Fletcher is also the primary architect of our school safety plan as it relates to other threats against our students and much of it has been copied in part or whole by other districts across the state as well state agencies. Mr. Fletcher was hired by Williamson County Schools from the Williamson County Sheriff's Office where, among other accomplishments in his 15+ years, he established the tactical medical officer program for the department's SWAT team and still serves as a senior operator. Prior to that, Mr. Fletcher worked for Williamson Medical Center as an Emergency Medical Services Supervisor for 15+ years as well as being a certified Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic in the State of Tennessee. He is currently in his seventh year with Williamson County Schools and has a detailed understanding of our district logistics and operations in addition to being a trained medical professional. I believe he is uniquely suited to the task at hand and I am also confident WCS has the best School Safety Director in Tennessee.

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- City Administrators
- the Franklin Special School District
- Williamson County Education Assn
- Special Education Parent Groups
- School Safety Personnel in other School Districts

In addition to this direct first-hand collaboration with these contacts, he is also incorporating the latest information from the Center for Disease Control and World Health Organization in his plans to keep all our students AND staff as safe as is reasonably possible.

I want to specifically call out that I'm including staff in this as we have dual responsibility to both our students and the adults in the classroom, many who fall into at-risk demographics. This includes but is not limited to 1-in-20 teachers, 1-in-4 substitute teaches, and 1-in-2 bus drivers being 60 years of age or older. The AAP Recommendations do not address teachers in the classroom and in a NY Times interview, Dr. Sean O'Leary who helped author the guidelines stated that, "*We're pediatricians. We're not educators. We don't want to tread in space where we don't belong.*" WCS of course does not have that luxury.

I also feel obligated to point out that the AAP has not stated that "kids just are not getting and transmitting the virus" but rather that they are "less likely." Here is the full quote from your included link, "*Although many questions remain, the preponderance of evidence indicates that children and adolescents are less likely to be symptomatic and less likely to have severe disease resulting from SARS-CoV-2 infection.*" The AAP has also recommended social distancing and the wearing of facial coverings for students in school when feasible.

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Thank you again for your email and I hope this information was helpful.

Respectfully,
Eric Welch

Eric Welch
Williamson County Schools
Board of Education - District 10

Please note that communications sent to/from this email account could potentially be requested and viewed by third parties under the Tennessee Open Records Act.

From: kati wooten <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 5:55 PM

To: Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>; Angela Durham <[REDACTED]>; Daniel Cash <[REDACTED]>; Eliot Mitchell <[REDACTED]>; Brad Fiscus <[REDACTED]>; Gary Anderson <[REDACTED]>; Jay Galbreath <[REDACTED]>; Sheila Cleveland <[REDACTED]>; Candace Emerson <[REDACTED]>; Rick Wimberly <[REDACTED]>; Eric Welch <[REDACTED]>; KC Haugh <[REDACTED]>; Nancy Garrett <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Percentage Information

Dr. Golden and WCS School Board Members,

I know you have a lot of information on your plate, but I wanted to pass along this info from Johns Hopkins. <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing/individual-states/tennessee>

While the number of cases continues to rise in Wilco, the percentage of positive cases does not. The 0.5% percentage rate is not only extremely low, but it truly has no bearings on the welfare of the students. I am writing you to ask that you increase the percentage rate to reflect its impact on students and the families you serve.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, kids just are not getting and transmitting the virus. Even in countries that have squashed the virus, most of them never once shut down schools, as kids are not the carriers of Covid-19. I would implore you to please consider this data when it comes to reopening schools in August. Our kids NEED to be in school in person. Their social skills and learning abilities demand it, as well as the burden of education on full time working parents. <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

Please give WCS parents the ability to sign a waiver allowing their children to be in school this fall, so long as the parent is comfortable sending their child.

Respectfully,
Kati Wooten

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." -John 16:33