

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 14, 2021, 1:00pm**

In Attendance:

- CTA – Wendy Doromal, Mary-Grace Surrena, Maribel Rigsby, Clinton McCracken, Ladara Royal
- OESPA – Ron Pollard, Lavaceo Smith, Joseph Wallace, Damien Williams, Michael Moore
- District – James Preusser, LeighAnn Blackmore, Jacqueline Saccamano, Rowland Welch
- Guests: Sarah Au, Bob Boyd, Mike Winter

Introductions

Prioritize Topics – May be time to cover the topics. Jim Preusser states one guest is here to discuss the building concerns

Meeting Procedures

- We agreed at the last meeting that the time would be 1:45pm. LeighAnn apologized for changing it. Going forward meetings will be at 1:45pm

Covid-19 Health and Safety Procedures Manual

- Review and Discussion of Revisions to Version 12.0
  - Wendy Doromal presented OCCTA position on reducing quarantine days from 14 to 10 citing evidence from medical experts and FLDOH. OCCTA opposed the reduction. The written report was sent to the District leaders and Ron Pollard during the meeting.
  - (It was later revealed in the meeting by Rowland Welch and LeighAnn Blackmore that the District had already implemented the 10 day changes without the input from OCCTA. OCCTA stated that was a violation of the December 8, 2021 MOU.)
- Discussion of Process for Emergency Revisions
  - Jim Pressuer said there is a need for a process for emergency revisions
  - Wendy Doromal stated that OCCTA will follow the MOU. The district must give OCCTA 10 days to concur if the District has any proposed revisions. As far as “emergencies”, OCCTA will consider those on a case-by-case basis only. OCCTA will enforce the MOU and contract language.

COVID-19 Dashboard Presentation by Rowland Welch

- Mr. Rowland Welch said the dashboard is “very specific” to our schools OCPS properties. Two different charts – positive cases and quarantines. The individual must have been on campus within last 30 days and tested positive to show up on dashboard. Anyone who has not been on campus won’t be on the dashboard. In order to show up on dashboard as well there must be an actual positive test result with identifying information from FLDOH or confirmation from FLDOH -test result in hand. All

information is turned over to FLDOH – we report everything even if no test result and they claim they test positive

- Quarantine section – Only for individuals quarantine for positive case on OCPS facility or property so if you get quarantined due to Thanksgiving, a family event or at a bar or concert, it will not show up on the dashboard. You must have been at an OCPS facility and have been exposed to a positive case at the facility.
- “As soon as we receive the quarantine letter we put cases up on the dashboard.” They will fall off of the dashboard after the individual quarantine is up.
- Look at the quarantine January 12<sup>th</sup> quarantine bar 109 -from multiple locations -as soon as quarantine is over will drop off-not always that ten day period (DOH tracing take time) On the right is the screen you can take individual school for snapshot school -past and present onsite school or worksite exposures.
- Mr. Welch revealed that quarantines are currently for a ten-day period. “If you go home January 1<sup>st</sup> sick, takes test on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, your test comes back positive on January 5, your quarantine started on January 1 and quarantine ends on January 10<sup>th</sup> Need enough information to verify -get out as soon as possible.
- LeighAnn Blackmore reiterated that the District is currently using the 10-day quarantine period, not 14 day. She stated, “To clarify. The quarantine starts on day of exposure, which is why if a person is exposed on first, get tested on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, gets results on 5<sup>th</sup>, the quarantine ends on the 10<sup>th</sup> - because the exposure started on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Welch says that is correct. Use procedure manual at all times.
- Jackie stated, “Those dates are set by the FLDOH.”
- Ron Pollard – “From the 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> day, how many others has that person come into contact with between 1<sup>st</sup> and get back positive how many people have I been in contact with until I’m told to stay out?”
- Welch -No one knows until you get positive test result.
- Ron Pollard -So much potential for problems here.
- LeighAnn Blackmore responds to Ron Pollard–“That’s why it’s important to follow protocols in manual. We don’t know who is exposed when or where.” She states - If student is not on campus -no one has been exposed to that student. Has to have been at facility or positive result has no impact on people at school. If off campus got COVID -not quarantined by OCPS.
- Ron Pollard questions - If a student exposed off campus came to school. Does active quarantine include students who have been exposed off campus. If active quarantines include off campus students exposed.
- No, says Rowland Welch. Positive case in household do not come to school - not included.
- Ron -They do come to school.
- Welch- Then they are not following protocols.
- Ron -Who is enforcing protocols?
- Wendy Doromal – The dashboard is violating our MOU. The dashboard is not providing the information we need to stay safe. Many sites on right that are incorrect. What is the address of Alternative Educations Centers which currently has several cases listed? This

is not a specific place. People are being denied ability to identify cases – Same with operations facilities -where when, all obscure. What facility -where? As far as dashboard dates. The dashboard states date the quarantine was issued here on January 13. Issued by FLDOH? January 13 -96 cases -all issued on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

- Welch - Yes, all issued on January 13, but will not necessarily all end on January 23 (Notice, again Welch is using the 10-day quarantine period even before OCCTA presented it's position on that.)
- Doromal ask who gets quarantine letters -principal -one person in district?
- Welch- principals and district staff get the letters from FLDOH, then reported to District and put on dashboard
- Doromal -hearing from multiple teachers not hearing about quarantines.
- Quarantine information goes to Dept of Health. Dept of Health may not have quarantined them.
- Active quarantines - Ron more people could be out with quarantines than what is on the dashboard. Outside of campus exposure not reported. Misleading.
- Rowland Welch answers Ron Pollard – Says if individuals are exposed outside of OCPS those quarantines are not reported on the dashboard. The dashboard is OCPS specific. We cannot control how many individuals go to parties based on off campus exposure.
- Ron Pollard -OCPS knows there's more exposure than they are reporting. Sound like we don't have that many cases - The dashboard is misleading to the public. It is ineffective.
- Wendy Doromal -Agreed
- Jim Preusser – No knowledge of cases not reported. Rowland can address that – we report what we receive from DOH
- Rowland – School specific on quarantine -what we receive from FLDOH -a case on campus. Say a parent tests positive, we have an established procedure for a household positive case - student stays off campus for so many days according to FLDOH. The numbers on the dashboard are positive cases on property and OCPS property exposure
- Ron states that we need a disclaimer on dashboard. Misleading numbers.
- Wendy agrees with the need for a disclaimer
- Rowland Welch states – “You can ask for quarantine numbers throughout the county if you want other numbers. Ask the FLDOH for quarantine numbers.”
- Ladara Royal – I want to give a live example -What's happening in our schools. For example, last week our student's parent notified us that the mom tested positive. In meantime before the parent found out the parent tested positive, the student went to school. Her child did test positive. Schools cannot do anything until proof of test. The child was around other students - about 15 students. They go into cafeteria -masks down every day until proof of test. Three to four days later when they find out the student was positive then we can notify those 15 students. How many days passed. Then they have only 3 days to serve quarantine. These 15 kids were around me every day. This is the reality that is going on in all of our schools.
- Wendy - That illustrates why a grave concern among employees.
- LeighAnn Blackmore – I wanted to clarify. The only quarantines we know of are the ones that FLDOH notifies OCPS of. Not notified of people at party.

- Rowland – People at party may notify us. Dashboard is OCPS exposures only -not people at party.
- Ron Pollard -those people quarantined because at party – are they on dashboard?
- Mary Grace – Example Ladara gave - no kids will show up on dashboard. A student at school for days exposed from grandma -no one at that school will know there is exposure. There are 110 cases and only a few quarantines. How is that possible? I support a disclaimer statement being put on the dashboard. They may be getting Covid off campus, but the individuals are spending time on campus. It is frustrating for the staff
- Jackie – I was exposed positive case -brother -contact tracing -then quarantined -tested negative -finished quarantine. Number did not appear on OCPS quarantine list.
- Wendy – Any more questions? OCCTA will send our questions in writing.

### Notification of Employees for Positive Cases

- Clinton reads email: January 12, 2020 “I’m a teacher and my assistant tested positive for Covid. She had symptoms while at work. No quarantine for me or my students. We are all free to keep spreading it all over while we wait for symptoms. The CDC and the OCPS manual both say we need to quarantine. Their reason for not is she isn’t considered close contact because we weren’t within 6 feet for "more than 15 minutes!" We are in a portable. We breathe the same air and touch all the same things. My principal keeps telling me it’s not her. It’s the DOH. Who do I complain to at DOH? I feel like they aren’t quarantining because they don’t want the bad press.”
- Wendy - OCCTA gets dozens of emails a week saying teachers are not notified of employees for positive cases. Teachers are panicked, not being notified. Maribel can you share one?
- Maribel Rigsby – From - December 12, 2020 - The Covid Dashboard seems to be inaccurate. We received a phone call from Jodi Blevins on Monday, January 11th saying that seven students reported positive for Covid-19 and their last time on campus was on Sunday, January 10th.
- Ladara: From a January 12 email I got: “I am at Hiawassee and imagine my surprise when I was informed by a friend from another school this morning that my school was listed as having 2 cases reported yesterday, Jan 11th, 1 student and 1 teacher. Then imagine my surprise when I do more investigation and determine we also had 2 student cases reported last week, one on Jan 7th and one on Jan 8th. Four confirmed cases and yet we have not received any phone calls to inform the staff ( I even checked with 3 different people to make sure.) As you know this is unacceptable and needs to change!”
- Mary Grace Surrena - Incomplete dashboard and the notification process needs to get better. One big frustration is itinerants who go from building to building – they are not informed on school-wide phone call or email. Every single day they are very nervous, not informed -hear through grape vine. MOU says they will be notified. We need to put heads together to improve this process.

- Lavaceo Smith -Part of it is there is a lack of transparency. I know personally teachers and staff daily that they are not properly informed and that's the problem. There is a problem with information being disseminated and the quarantine process. . . You have to take sick day for Covid test – you want to take test if exposed. District is issuing quarantines according to who person was around. Huge problem. It's a mess. I'm at a school – people constantly not being told when they were exposed to people/students. Teacher got sick and they went in to spray and then next class went right in after 5 minutes . She asked about how long spray has to sit. What's happening is not good look at school/district level. These type of stories getting out from supt. down we need to get this handled. I'm hearing from other schools teachers staff complaining about same things. Come up with more transparent dashboard and way for principals to handle things. Not cohesive, transparent. It's a mess. Need more transparent dashboard and more transparent way for principals to handle this.
- Wendy Doromal – I hope that the district personnel on this committee are listening and will do something instead of digging their heels in saying they are not going to give weekly report, or not going to be transparent, no not going to correct the dashboard. They are making more leave because it's not safe. First hand knowledge of how Covid impacts person - traced back to OCPS school and will impact person for rest of life. I don't know what you're trying to protect- you need to protect lives -it's about protecting health and lives. Not about taking more time to list the real place -school or worksite on the dashboard. Some people were never notified for even one positive case and their site is not on the dashboard. Their site not on dashboard. Not acceptable.

District (Sarah Au) wants to provide some answers to questions from committee members

- Clinton: DOH issues and determines quarantines
- Mary Grace -Notification - Principals make calls to staff and parents. A-positive confirmed case has to be called out to staff and parents to let them know. School example - Classroom teacher and other staff members in room are called first. 2<sup>nd</sup> call principal makes is to entire school -Launched, face-to-face and all staff itinerant staff. Told principals to notify all personnel. Based on feedback from LeighAnn telling the principals to contact all personnel.
- Ladara – Regarding Hiawasee -teacher did not receive calls. She suggests that contact info for that teacher may be in correct (except no one at school got call in his example)
- Ron comments -teachers and classroom paras are notified – but students go all around school and are in contact with custodians and cafeteria workers. Do they get called?
- Sarah says all staff are in 2<sup>nd</sup> call and all are supposed to be notified.
- Wendy -What should and what is happening are not same thing. District needs to make sure procedures are followed.
- Mary Grace question - Positive test - say FLDOH says caught from mom – everyone notified, but the case will never show up on the dashboard?
- Sarah - The FLDOH doesn't say where get Covid from. Child in quarantine based on household close contact – FLDOH. Not active quarantine -goes on dashboard only if

tests positive. Dept. of Health contact tracing can take time. Today they have been quick -we cannot control their process.

#### Leave for Employees Who Test Positive

- Ron Pollard - Classified staff not being paid for time off unless it is documented that they were infected at work, when we don't believe schools are reporting all cases. When did the district change the policy regarding the that an employee does not get paid if exposed or in quarantine not case at school?
- LeighAnn Blackmore - The process is if the exposure has happened and has not happened on campus -the district does has not been paying for that leave. District has reviewed cases that were questioned and reversed some initial decisions. If the exposure did not happen on campus there were no positive cases on campus then the - district is not paying for those cases.
- Ron Pollard – When did it change?
- LeighAnn Blackmore - I do not have specific date for that change. It's been in place for some time.
- Ron Pollard - You are encouraging people to go to work with Covid-19 so they get paid.
- Wendy – Exactly. If you are not going to pay employee's leave if they have Covid or are quarantined, so you are encouraging them to go to work, knowing that they could have Covid or should be quarantined.
- Jim – If we have situation where an employee says I was at party and I was with 70 people and contact tracing shows they got Covid at party-that's reckless behavior. Is it the union's position we pay that person? In discussions employee have told us - "My fault I did something outside of school, I'm Covid positive." Through the contact tracing, we also identified other people who got positive from that party -that individual would not get paid leave because they made a bad decision. That has happened a couple times.
- Ron – You're giving worse case example -party with 70 people. I'm talking about somebody who doesn't know where they got it -told conversations through contact tracing and discussions
- Jim – I would say through contact tracing and discussions with FLDOH and our team at OCPS we would have discussion with employee to determine what occurred during break, who you interacted with , where were you. There was a positive case at school so they should get paid leave.
- Ron - From what we're seeing is if union gets involved they can get paid.
- Jim - Bring situations to my attention
- Wendy - OCCTA wants list number of employees in our bargaining unit being denied paid for positive cases and quarantines. Will send written question.
- Jim -will find out if any.
- Ron Pollard. We were told it is a policy that if an employee can't prove that you didn't get Covid from school, you won't get paid. If that's the statement and I don't have leave time -then I'm coming to work.

- Wendy asks for Cares Acts money to date, how much is coming, how much has been spent on what line item

### Training on Covid-Related Procedures

- Ron Pollard – Said he is hearing from groups that there would be training. What is the training on lap tops or notebooks? How to clean? Are they cleaning those any way?
- Jackie -When Covid first started I worked with ITS Dept and they had a plan how to safely clean laptops and devices - sent to it staff and should be following protocol WHAT ID PROTOCOL for cleaning devices.
- Ron wants procedures. How this information was dispersed?
- Jackie - Says there is a protocol - I don't know if virtual or what kind of training was done. The ITS Dept. did this training. We have lots of safety protocols given to direct individuals, example band protocols. Can give copies.
- Wendy - Each time Covid safety manual is updated are employees given a notice and copy and updates
- Jackie – Updated every Friday. Page 4 says what changes are
- Wendy -What I'm hearing there is no training such as principal tells faculty this is revision 12 -many significant changes. Are employees notified
- Jackie -May be notified -doesn't know if principals notify or train employees
- LeighAnn -email with updates
- Sarah Au -Will consider new update for this semester

### Air Filters and Upgrades

- LeighAnn - Mike will speak on air filter upgrades .Jennifer Fowler next meeting -unsafe building conditions
- Mike Winter - Information received through yesterday – asked to upgrade filters medical advisory group
- Local engineers two types of filter upgrades based on mechanical MERVE 13 rated filter older schools will receive a Dual 9 rated filter. October early November started ordering. There is a nationwide backlog. OCPS started to receive filters in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December. Since then they are tracking filters received and installed. There are 11 sites using Dual 9 filters, 3 sites with Merve 13 installed As of yesterday 10 sites where filters were received. Scheduling for installation. Projected to have all upgrades done by February. Today about 2 dozen more sites will have installation reported when complete.
- Mr. Winter – Addressed fogging of classroom and 24-hour period. He said not factual that you have to wait 24 hours before people can return to area, based on product OCPS uses. Depending on wiped on or sprayed on fogging through fine mist – drying time 2-5 minutes to be effective or up to ten minutes. No product we use exceeds timeframes
- Lavaceo Smith – Back to taking the words of people testing positive -taking their word of who they've been are around as far as contact tracing. Even though we have seating

charts for teachers -teachers and students not being contacted when around a positive person for a substantial period of time. The contact tracing doesn't appear to be accurate.

- Wendy -I totally agree
- Sarah -FLDOH conducts all of the contact tracing. If person feels they were exposed there is a phone number for FLDOH. Anyone could call and say who they were exposed to. DOH decides quarantines completely. Contact tracing training is intensive.
- Lavaceo -Taking word of teacher/students not accurate. If FLDOH is doing it need to look at more than seating charts – class quarantine vs who is sitting next to a student. Not accurate -in classroom -now larger breathing same air with 20-25 students.
- Sarah Au - I have questions about how they determine that as well. If person feels they were in contact with somebody can contact FLDOH

Answers to some previous questions – Jackie

- Scott Evans make PPE available to directors
- Front office personnel provides sign-in sheets to FLDOH for contact tracing
- Maribel question – teachers not receiving notices – said Sarah did good job first and 2<sup>nd</sup> tier -some have not updated contact information
- Seating charts are not being used for tracing . OCPS asks all teachers and bus driver to maintain up-to-date charts. She will follow up lunch seating charts – Jackie not sure how lunch seating charts maintained -reach out to membership number one concern – district needs seating charts.
- Ron wanted information concerning athletic events and capacity - 25% indoor or outdoor capacity sports other events. Follow CDC guidance OCPS does not manage visitor game capacity. Events may be made available virtually

Next Meeting

- Ron will be the chair
- Send agenda items to Ron. LeighAnn wants to be copied and said to copy Jackie
- Next meeting is January 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:45pm