



WEEKLY CHECK IN NOTES



September 2, 2020 Small School Heads Conversation

Agenda:

Concerns of parents "seeing" the classrooms via their child's computer
How did you use the second pulse survey and what were its benefits for you?
How are you doing teacher evaluations?
And anything you will bring to the discussion.

People who are opening shared:

Pick up kits and welcome bags and containers were prepared and given out to all students
Drive thru before school started with handing out kits- so blown away by all the effort and thought and time went into them
Drastic difference between those who are social distancing and those who are not
Pictures of baskets? YES to use for PR
Many pods set up- going from pod to pod each day is a lot
Mishpachot program (like Harry Potter) had sorting system on Friday before Kabbalat Shabbat... was super cute- students were so excited about getting their shirts!
Innovation is happening and teachers are making it work- building volcanos in individual cardboard boxes so they each have their own squares
Handbells as a choir in music class; ways to use instruments and not voices

Question:

What if a child says he has some symptoms... when do they come back to school? What are the rules? What if the students are just nervous? Regular sick? What is the protocol? My medical team cannot respond to my question... "I feel strange" what does that mean???

Hungry? Tired? Tense about making a mistake... when do they come back when they go home with a symptom?

- A symptom is not a cause to go home... unless it is a high risk symptom like fever- not stomach ache or headache or nauseous ... regular school stuff... treat like a non Covid situation unless it is multiple symptoms and then 24 hours symptom free before they can return

- Afraid HOS is liable if the call is wrong...
- Do we need a physician's notes? Require doctor visit
- Will parents tell kids not to complain about anything in school
- 2 secondary symptoms and 1 primary- they have in their handbook (primary- breathing, fever, chills, loss of taste or smell)
- Daily health verification form- if yes for anything, can not come to school, can only return with doctor note
- If a student has seasonal allergies and we must have dr note that it may happen- but can not send it in advance.
- Parents and teachers are so nervous
- Has the faculty been trained to triage this? No one wants to make any mistakes now... we are not health care providers, but teachers can use best judgement if this was their child... would you be concerned?

Question:

What are you doing for Teacher evaluations? Are you amending it at all?

- DOE has made statement about core standards- reading and math is key so the rest is less essential, so this years essential standards are different so now each teacher has to know his or her new basic responsibilities
- All teachers concerned about how many more duties they have- worried about getting through the day- but not as an evaluative piece...
- What if the "best they can do" does not cut it?
- Judaics at home is not going as well as general studies- harder to hear because of language so it is translating into different issues in Judaics, so maybe remote learners get tutoring in zoom instead of zooming into the classroom
- If a teacher is struggling keep paper trail and have conversation, document so it is not a surprise
- Challenge of new kids transitioning in, might need extra support in the room, and some parents watching at home- might be asking too much, give as much support as we can
- Confident and capable teachers are really challenged with new physical limitations for the class due to Covid rules, many need support in the room. So hard for them to shift. Might be an impasse. Some teachers can't wrap thier head around it- even with an assistant- because they just do not think it is going well

Question:

Are you concerned about parents seeing into the classrooms?. How are teachers feeling about this?

- Big concern because parents request teachers now based on what they "saw" in the spring
- encourage parents to set up students and walk away
- This is a limited issue as not too many students at home
- One parent sits with the child and participates... the principal had to call and say no thanks... it is the students experience, not the parent's

- Interesting that a parent thinks her child is way above all the other kids so maybe withdraw her child?

Question:

Did any of you use the results of the survey?

- Gave me information and reference it when I am talking
- A parent used the data to complain why we are not opening , using the data

Question:

Kindergarten teacher emailed me about rest time bedding. (washing sheets and stuffed animals) weekly instead of daily?

- Maybe leave it in the vehicle daily, not necessarily wash it (it is so hot in the car it get sanitized!) Are you monitoring the cleaning masks?
- It is like socks- you know it when it is not washed...

Question:

Carpooling allowed?

- I can only monitor what happens during school day, not controlling where they go afterwards
- Task force is very strict in some schools- not realistic, though, only so much you can police...
- If a parent needs help we will figure it out
- Following guidelines but when they fall apart... please don't tell me what you did this weekend, I don't want to know, because what am I going to do? What to do when people break policy?
- Maybe we need to be understanding but maybe not..
- Ask them to keep masks on in car
- No carpooling policy
- They are still doing it but we will not facilitate it...

Are people sending guidelines for the long weekend or about synagogue over Rosh Hashana?

Example- one school says if parents go to shul, children need to quarantine for two weeks

- Fear of losing community support
- Writing letters WITH synagogues
- Maybe do holidays outside
- If shul is the worst thing they do we are not in bad shape, but it is not... shul would be the last place I would attack... maybe if you go on vacation you need to quarantine for two weeks..

