Belmont Public Schools
"Return to Learning" Fall 2020

BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
AUGUST 25, 2020

AGENDA

Phased Plan:

1. General Update

2. Remote Learning Presentation

3. Timeline and Metrics

SCHOOL PRIORITIES

1. Health & Safety

2. Social-Emotional Wellbeing

3. Academic Engagement & Return to Rigor

UPDATE: FACILITIES STATUS

1. "Walk-throughs" in all six schools

2. HVAC work performed all summer on mechanical systems to ensure they are performing to manufactures specifications. We have had a team of up to four professionals from ATCO (Town HVAC Vendor) on site for the majority of the summer.

3. All windows and screens that were deemed inoperable were identified and the work has contracted out to a vendor. All windows and screens will be operational by start of school on September 16.

4. Air exchange assessment work has started. It will take approximately two weeks of on-site evaluation and one week to ten days to draft a report. Report will then be submitted to School Department.

5. After discussion with parent groups the district has put in an order for 100 air purification machines to support the air exchange across strategic spaces throughout the district. More will be ordered if needed.

6. All facilities work and purchases will be reimbursed through the federal grant funds.

UPDATE: ATHLETICS

1. DESE and MIAA provided an update on high school athletics.

2. They are providing a "Fall 2" (or 'Floating') Season to take place in March and April to provide an opportunity to hold those fall sports that cannot take place in September.

3. The programs that have been identified as "Fall 2" sports are football and competitive cheerleading.

4. Sports such as boys and girls soccer and field hockey are under review and will have modifications put in place. We await that information from the MIAA.

5. Golf and cross country are two programs that may be able to take place this fall. The details are being worked on by the Middlesex League Athletic Directors.

6. The Middlesex League Athletic Directors are also reviewing volleyball and swimming, as these sports may be moved to a Fall2 or Floating Season.

UPDATE: UPCOMING MATTERS

1. Hybrid Model presented to School Committee first week of September

2. Cohorts will be determined after Hybrid Model presentation

3. Updates from Student Services sent to all families who have children on IEPs and is posted on the BPS Website.

4. "Meet and Greets": Some will occur before school starts on September 16, and others during September and October. Schools will send out their schedules to families.

5. In response to Commissioner Reilly's recommendation to have teachers in classrooms to teach remote classes, a concerned fourth grade Belmont student started a petition to allow teachers the choice to teach from home or the classroom.

WHAT WOULD REMOTE LOOK LIKE?

Presentation tonight from Principals on Remote Learning Model & Schedule:

1. Elementary Presentation: Principals Danielle Betancourt, Heidi Paisner-Roffman, Seeley Okie and Anita Mecklenburg

2. Chenery Presentation: Principal Karla Koza

3. Belmont High School Presentation: Principal Isaac Taylor

PROPOSED PHASED PLAN FOR BELMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
K-12 Remote Learning	Continued Remote Learning	Full Hybrid	Full In-Person Learning
In-person for our high needs and complex students (per DESE guidelines)	In-person learning for next category of complex and high need students like: • Grades K and/or 1 • Socio-economic /SEL / Students in need of academic support • Families in unique circumstances	In-person and remote learning via hybrid schedule	Full student return (with few restrictions)

DETAILED PHASED PLAN TIMELINE

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Starting September 16	**Starting *no sooner than* October 19**	**Starting *no sooner than* November 9**	**TBD**
• In-person learning for DESE defined students, pre school and LABBB programs. • Remote Learning for students in grades K-12	• In-person learning for vulnerable students like: • Additional special education services • English Learning services • Kindergarten • Grade one	• In –person learning from Phases 1 and 2 • Cohorts formed for Hybrid Learning for grades 2-12 • Remote Only Cohort formed	• Full student return (with some restrictions)

DETAILED <u>PHASED PLAN</u> TIMELINE

Phase 1
Starting September 16
In-person learning for DESE defined students, pre school and LABBB programs.   Remote Learning for <u>all</u> students in grades K-12 with Belmont Educators

Work to be done before entering Phase 2…

- SC to meet on 9/22 to review data & decide on the timeline for entering Phase 2.
- SC will review the DPH metrics and the Facilities Air Flow Assessment
- In September we will identify the future "Remote Only Cohort" and "Hybrid Cohort," in preparation for Phase 2 and Phase 3
- "Hybrid Cohorts" and schedules will be formed for all in-person learning for Kindergarten and Grade 1 students.

DETAILED PHASED PLAN TIMELINE

Phase 2
Starting *no sooner than* October 19
In-person learning for vulnerable students like: Additional special education services English Learning services Kindergarten Grade 1

Work to be done before entering Phase 3…

- Time will be needed to inform families and staff to shift to Phase 3 implementation, including:
  - Review and discussion of weekly DPH metrics
  - Any updates on Facilities Air Exchange Assessment
  - A "Remote Only Cohort" will be identified, to be taught by Belmont educators.
  - "Hybrid Cohorts" and schedules will be formed for all in-person learning for Grades 2-12.

DETAILED PHASED PLAN TIMELINE

Phase 3
Starting *no sooner than* November 9

- In –person learning from Phases One and Two
- Cohorts formed for Hybrid Learning for grades 2-12
- Remote Only Cohort formed

Work to be done before entering Phase 4…

- We will await DESE guidance regarding the lifting of restrictions that will allow all students to full, in-person return.

BELMONT AND DESE METRICS

❑ Belmont is proposing to utilize the DESE metrics to support the decision making process for moving from one phase to the next.

❑ These metrics were reviewed and supported by Belmont Director of Public Health.

❑ For the decision to move from Phase 1 to Phase 2 the School Committee will use these metrics, as well as the Air Exchange Assessment information

DESE's new color-coded metric from DPH / COVID-19 Command

Measured as a 14-day rolling average and will be reported weekly as part of the online DPH dashboard

New color-coded metric* | **DESE expectation for learning model**

RED	Average daily cases per 100,000 is **greater than 8**	**Remote**
YELLOW	Average daily cases per 100,000 is **between 4 - 8**	**Hybrid** **OR Remote** (if extenuating circumstances[1])
GREEN	Average daily cases per 100,000 is **less than 4**	**Full-time in-person** **OR Hybrid** (if extenuating circumstances[1])
UNSHADED	Fewer than 5 total cases over the past 14 days. Generally, this is for communities with small populations and very few cases.	

[1]*In Belmont's case the extenuating circumstances would be the status of our facilities.*

ADDITIONAL DESE GUIDANCE

❑ Other metrics to review: While average daily cases per 100,000 is the metric that determines the color coding for each community, districts/schools should also monitor whether cases are **increasing or decreasing** vs. the prior period. Monitoring **positive testing** also remains an important metric. In consultation with their local boards of health, districts should consider whether these additional metrics and underlying data may indicate other concerning trends. DESE will provide additional guidance on example scenarios regarding other metrics for districts to review.

❑ Multiple weeks of data is necessary to understand trends: Districts should **look at multiple reports** to inform any changes to their learning model for the start of the school year or to make any changes during the year.

❑ Regional schools and others that draw from multiple cities/towns: We will issue additional guidance that points you to the appropriate data to view for your context.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE DISCUSSION TONIGHT

1. Timeline
2. Metrics