

# Belmont School Committee

Tuesday, February 22, 2021

# Agenda

1. CMS Solar Panel Project
2. Return to In-Person Learning Update
3. Hybrid Planning Update
4. Center for Disease Control Updated Guidelines
5. FY22 Budget

# CMS Solar Panel Project

# CMS Solar Panel Project

## ▶ Project Update:

- Belmont Light role
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Belmont Light and School Department
- Work and completion timeline

## ▶ Discussion:

- Belmont High School “Climate Action Club”

# Return to In-Person Learning: Working Group

# Return to In-Person Learning: Working Group

- ▶ Selection of members completed
- ▶ All members were communicated with over February break and provided materials and agenda
- ▶ First meeting was Monday, February 22, 2021
- ▶ Look forward to “rolling updates” every two weeks
- ▶ All updates will be publicly posted, including:
  - *Agendas, slides, resources, meeting summaries*

# Working Group Membership

The committee was thoughtfully created in order to represent many different stakeholders and draw on distinct perspectives and areas of expertise within the community.

► Perspectives include:

- Students
- Parents/Guardians
- Educators (Core and Encore)
- School Nurses
- Principals & District Leaders
- School Committee Members
- Board of Health
- Community Members
- Hybrid learners
- In-person learners
- Special Education
- ELL
- Belmont Education Association
- PTO/A representatives
- Epidemiology
- Health Care Professionals
- Science Professionals
- Every level of the district (K-4, 5-8, 9-12),
- Every school (Burbank, Butler, Wellington, Winn Brook, Chenery, BHS)

# Working Group Members

▶ Members include:

- Danielle Betancourt
- Jennipher Burgess
- Sarah Caputo
- Mike Crowley
- Janice Darias
- Ben DeLorio
- Maima Diakhate
- Suzy Feinberg
- Lisa Fiore
- Lusine Galajyan
- Evelyn Gomez
- Pheobe Gray
- Lisa Harteveltdt
- Aditya Jain
- Karla Koza
- Matthew Kraft
- Ken Kramer
- Denise LaPolla
- Julie Lemay
- Craig McMahan
- Nichte Mejia
- Dustin O'Brien
- Kelly Rowan
- Kara Sassone
- Naomie Senet
- Lindsay Sharp
- Caroline Sokol
- Bryan Spencer
- Isaac Taylor
- Owen Thomas
- Gi Yoon-Huang

# Hybrid Learning Models

# Hybrid Learning Models

- ▶ The School Committee and the Belmont Educators Association has been meeting to collectively bargain the elementary and middle school models.
- ▶ Meetings were held on:
  - February dates: 2/9, 2/10, 2/17 (School Committee only)
- ▶ The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 25, 2021

# CDC Updated Guidelines

February 2021

# Key themes from new guidance

- ▶ Goal:
  - “To open schools for in-person learning as safely and quickly as possible, and [to keep] them open...”
- ▶ Multi-layered approach to keep in-school transmission risk of COVID-19 low
- ▶ Community transmission levels and case counts important
- ▶ At low or moderate rates of transmission schools should generally be fully in person (even if this means physical distancing may be less than 6 ft. in some circumstances)
- ▶ Focus on equity
- ▶ School staff and teachers should be vaccinated as soon as supply allows for it

# Summary of CDC's top mitigation strategies to reduce risk of spread

- ▶ Universal and correct use of masks
- ▶ Modified layouts to promote physical distancing
  - Space students out by 6 feet when possible
- ▶ Maintain healthy school environments through frequent cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces and shared objects
- ▶ Contact tracing - using 6 foot protocol
- ▶ Good handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- ▶ Stay home when sick
- ▶ Ventilation - air exchange

# Mitigation Strategies: Cross Walk

All schools should **use** and **layer** mitigation strategies.

Key Mitigation Strategies (CDC, 2021)	DESE (2020)	Chan School (2020)
 Universal & correct use of masks *	Required for students in Gr. 2+ & all adults. Encouraged for K/1. (p. 8)	✓
 Physical distancing (at least 6 feet) *	(see next slide)	(see next slide)
 Handwashing & respiratory etiquette	✓	✓
 Cleaning & maintaining healthy facilities	✓	✓
 Contact tracing in combination with isolation & quarantine, in collaboration with the health department	---	✓

 Currently done in Belmont

*\* Schools providing in-person instruction should prioritize these mitigation strategies. (CDC, 2021)*

# Testing

## ▶ Diagnostic Testing

- Offer referrals to diagnostic testing for school members who are exhibiting symptoms or who were a close contact of a person who tested positive
- **BPS has trained and has capacity for this testing model**

## ▶ Screening Testing

- *“Some schools may also elect to use screening testing as a strategy to identify cases and prevent secondary transmission”* (CDC, 2021)
- Optional, additional layer of mitigation
- **BPS pilot begins at March 1st at BHS**

# Vaccinations

- ▶ *“Teachers and school staff hold jobs critical to the continued functioning of society and are at potential occupational risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2. In order to support safe school reopening, state, territorial, local, and tribal (STLT) officials should consider giving high priority to teachers in early phases of vaccine distribution. ...Access to vaccination should nevertheless not be considered a condition for reopening schools for in-person instruction.” (CDC, 2021, p. 2)*

# Continuum of Risk

## Lowest risk:

- ▶ Students and teachers engage in virtual-only classes, activities, and events.

## Some risk:

- ▶ Hybrid Learning Model, where **most** students and teachers participate in virtual learning and **some** students and teachers engage in in-person learning, with:
  - **Small**, in-person classes, activities, and events
  - Cohorting and alternating or staggered schedules, **rigorously applied**
  - **No mixing** of groups of students and teachers throughout/across school days
  - **No sharing** of objects between students and teachers
  - Students, teachers, and staff following **all steps** to [protect themselves and others](#) at all times including proper use of face masks, social distancing, and hand hygiene
  - Regularly scheduled and consistent (i.e., at least daily or between uses) [cleaning](#) of frequently touched areas

# Continuum of Risk

## Medium risk:

- ▶ Hybrid Learning Model, where **most** students and teachers engage in in-person learning and **some** students and teachers participate in virtual learning, with:
  - **Larger** in-person classes, activities, and events
  - Cohorting and alternating or staggered schedules **applied with some exceptions**
  - **Some mixing** of groups of students and teachers throughout/across school days
  - **Minimal sharing** of objects between students and teachers
  - Students, teachers, and staff following **all steps** to [protect themselves and others](#) such as proper use of face masks, social distancing, and hand hygiene
  - Regularly scheduled (i.e., at least daily or between uses) [cleaning](#) of frequently touched areas

**This reflects Belmont's current status**

# Continuum of Risk

## Higher risk:

- ▶ Students and teachers engage **entirely in in-person** learning, activities, and events with:
  - **Some mixing** of groups of students and teachers throughout/across school days
  - **Some sharing** of objects between students and teachers
  - Students, teachers, and staff following **some** steps to [protect themselves and others](#) such as proper use of face masks, social distancing, and hand hygiene
  - **Irregular [cleaning](#)** of frequently touched areas

## Highest risk:

- ▶ Students and teachers **engage entirely in in-person** learning, activities, and events with:
  - Students **mixing freely** between classes and activities
  - Students and teachers **freely sharing** objects
  - Students, teachers, and staff do **not/are not** following steps to [protect themselves and others](#) such as proper use of face masks, social distancing, and hand hygiene
  - **Irregular [cleaning](#)** of frequently touched areas

## Recommended Implementation of Mitigation Strategies and K-12 School Learning Modes by Level of Community Transmission

Low Transmission <sup>1</sup> Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
<p><b>All schools:</b> Universal and correct use of masks is required; implementing other key mitigation strategies: handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities; contact tracing and diagnostic testing<sup>2</sup> in combination with quarantine and isolation.</p>			
 <p>K-12 schools open for full in-person instruction Physical distancing of 6 feet or more to the greatest extent possible<sup>3</sup></p>		<p>Elementary schools in hybrid mode<sup>4</sup>; physical distancing of 6 feet or more required</p>	
		<p>Middle and high schools in hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance Physical distancing of 6 feet or more is required</p>	<p>Middle and high schools in virtual only instruction unless they can strictly implement all mitigation strategies, and have few cases; schools that are already open for in-person instruction can remain open, but only if they strictly implement mitigation strategies and have few cases<sup>5</sup></p>
<p>Sports and extracurricular activities with masks required; physical distancing of 6 feet or more to the greatest extent possible<sup>6</sup></p>	<p>Sports and extracurricular activities with masks and physical distancing of 6 feet or more required</p>	<p>Sports and extracurricular activities occur only if they can be held outdoors, with masks and physical distancing of 6 feet or more required</p>	<p>Sports and extracurricular activities virtual only</p>

# FY22 Budget

# FY 22 Budget

- ▶ Presentation on [FY22 contingent budget](#)
- ▶ Presentation on FY22 non-contingent budget and use of free cash