

ASCA School Council Engagement Task Force – September 2020 RESULTS
30 Responses submitted (as of November 6, 2020)

The feedback your school council parent representative compiles and submits to the ASCA is greatly appreciated by the Board to assist in their considerations on education issues in Alberta.

The Board utilizes information gathered to inform the advocacy work of the association. This may include advising at external committee meetings, sharing with appropriate Ministries or provincial education organizations, and the potential for Board sponsored Advocacy Resolutions.

Request for input regarding “**School Re-entry and Re-entry Planning**”.

Background/context:

Students across Alberta returning to class for the 2020/21 school year will be under **Scenario 1**: In-class learning with enhanced health and safety measures. [Get the facts: Back to class for 2020-21](#)

[2020-2021 School Re-Entry Plan](#)

The Minister of Education Adriana LaGrange announced on July 21, 2020 school authorities across Alberta will follow Scenario 1 of the plan at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. Additional health measures (mandatory masks) were announced on August 4, 2020, and guidance plans updated on August 20, 2020.

School authorities were required to plan for three (3) scenarios to begin the 2020/21 school year, as the COVID-19 pandemic may change at any time and make it necessary to transition from one scenario to another with short notice.

- Scenario 1 – In-school classes resume, near-normal operations with health measures, [COVID-19 information: Guidance for schools on re-entry scenario 1](#) (Updated August 20), and [Implementing school re-entry guidance](#) (PDF, 587 KB)
- Scenario 2 – In-school classes partially resume with additional health measures, [COVID-19 information: Guidance for schools on re-entry scenario 2](#) (Updated August 20)
- Scenario 3 – At home learning continues, in-school classes are cancelled

(Note – there are three distinct SECTIONS – PROVINCE/DIVISION/SCHOOL containing similar questions)

In the PROVINCE:

1) Is your school council satisfied with the SCENARIO 1 for school re-entry?

23 (77%) Yes 4 (13%) No 3 (10%) Unsure

Comments:

- The answer to this question is a yes and no response because as a council we feel there should have been more prep and more questions asked before we did return to school.
- More lead time with a more detailed plan of action would have been appreciated. There was basically no specific plan given to the schools to communicate to the parents.

- Scenario 1 should have included mandatory masks at all times for all students regardless of age. The different rules for in-class and for younger students has been extremely confusing and does not follow current guidelines from the CDC that states that airborne transmission greater than 6m is the main source of COVID19 infection. More than 100 schools have sent COVID19 infection notices.
- Our parent council would have liked smaller class sizes implemented by the provincial government and education ministry.
- Being a small school population the near normal worked out for our school.
- We prefer #2. BUT Things are going well thanks to the hard work of the division and the school.
- There was support for going back to the classroom and generally for what was proposed. A small percentage of our school did not return in class.
- It was good for socialization. However; it should have included more funding for adequate COVID measures; admin & staff support and more funding for special needs students and students that fell behind academically; developmentally or suffered psychologically.
- Full time in school classes were needed to bring a sense of normality to the families and students. However; it is extremely challenging to ensure distancing suggestions in classrooms with 25 or more students; of which there are many. To accommodate the cohort requirement; our school went to a quad-master format. Given the intense pace of instruction required; our grade 12 students have encountered a great deal of stress and anxiety.
- We wish it was better funded by the provincial government.

2) Would your school council have been more satisfied with a SCENARIO 2 for school re-entry?

3 (10%) Yes 20 (67%) No 7 (23%) Unsure

Comments:

- I think our school and many schools did the best they could with what information and materials they had. School and School Board- Great Province- Rushed.
- Tough to say because there was not a detailed plan given for either scenario. There was no details given in regards to online learning either. Now not all classes required at the high school level are available online in every district.
- Depends if Alberta Health implemented mandatory masks. Scenario 2 does nothing if students under a certain age don't wear masks and every student takes off their mask when seated.
- Scenario 2 was NOT well defined; there were very few details available to parents from the provincial government. With so many unknowns it is not possible to say we'd have preferred scenario. Furthermore; we believe that the near complete lack of information and transparency is a clear indicator that at NO time whatsoever did the government even consider anything beyond scenario 1.
- Scenario 2 was too complicated for many parents to juggle both child care; online schooling and in class schooling. It also did not seem to be an effective strategy for reducing spread.
- Barely a majority answered no; with a high remainder being unsure.
- This scenario would have accommodated those students and families that had significant concerns about class sizes and the school's ability to ensure a safe and hygienic environment. I believe consistency is key and this scenario would have resulted in inconsistent learning opportunities.
- Our school council is happy with the Scenario 1 re-entry at our school and in our Division.

3) Would your school council have been more satisfied with a SCENARIO 3 for school re-entry?

1 (3%) Yes 27 (90%) No 2 (7%) Unsure

Comments:

- Depends on what arrangements are made by the Alberta Government for parents who are unable to work due to child care responsibilities. It's not reasonable to expect them to quit their jobs to support the schools.
- Again; not enough information was provided by the government or education ministry to allow us to believe there was any intention beyond scenario 1.
- Sitting young children especially elementary students in front of a computer screen is not the right solution.
- A very small percentage of parents chose the online learning option available to us. The overwhelming support was for scenario 1.
- It is not practical to have students remain at home and simply provide online learning. I don't believe it was a complete success from March-June. Not every student receives the same level of support from their families. This could lead to some students not completing assignments; exams or even being able to receive additional help in understanding curriculum. Some students would have been left behind.
- Our school council is happy with the Scenario 1 re-entry at our school and in our Division.

4) Is your school council satisfied with the re-entry plan/guidelines provided by Alberta Education?

11 (37%) Yes 11 (37%) No 8 (26%) Unsure

Comments:

- Not enough support to schools; reduced grants and funding.
- There was no specific plan given to the schools.
- Most parents did not read the email. Being a parent that did read it my answer is yes.
- Could be a little more clear.
- 100+ schools sent home COVID19 infection notices. The plans made seemed to be for financial purposes; however; the end results will likely be more expensive for Alberta Taxpayers yet at the same time they don't require masks on at all times because it's too much of a burden and they are worried about mental health. Parents and students who receive COVID19 letters are told that infection was inevitable...
- Parents were truly not given an opportunity to voice their concerns and needs. ASCA did a good job of collecting data; but the government took that 86% and acted like those parents wanted their kids back in classes; full stop. Parents wanted to know that kids; and staff; would be safe in school; but that's not how the government used the data.
- We felt that it was dumped on the district.
- Divisions and parents had to rush once the final decision was announced. They should have given more time to prepare.
- There has been a lot of confusion and uncertainty with protocols and processes. Alberta Education's guidelines and plan were too vague and challenging to understand in terms of your own school. It did not feel consistent across the board and it felt very rushed.
- Parent feedback commenting on the amount of 'mask' time when in school.
- As there was no extra education funding it meant with the current number of students in one class, adequate spacing could not be maintained; high school classes ended up being too long and the guidelines were confusing to follow.
- Council members were split on this; Not enough detail/time provided prior to schools opening; so the first week or two were more stressful than they needed to be.

- Basic realities were ignored. Class sizes are large and cannot accommodate safe distancing. The suggestion that all students face forwarding their classes; therefore masks are not required once seated; is unrealistic in terms of keeping kids safe.
- Yes; we feel that our District has gone above and beyond the provincial guidelines to make our schools as safe as possible.

5) What does your school council believe would have improved the **provincial** re-entry plan/guidelines?

Comments:

- We would have liked to have seen the plans released earlier so that there would have been more time for feedback and for the District and Schools to develop their plans.
- Class sizes; better timing to allow for divisions and schools to plan and implement.
- More consistency between divisions and school boards ; more stakeholder engagement.
- Guidelines did not match AHS recommendations; Class Sizes Needed to be Addressed; More Public Health Supports; More planning.
- More clear direction of certain terms and certain scenarios more explained.
- A detailed description of how all aspects of the education system would run under each scenario. More lead time to prepare.
- No answer since they did not read the email.
- Smaller class sizes for social distancing. Staggered entry as well as combination of in school and home learning. We are not following health guidelines which puts the entire community at a higher risk to Covid19 exposure.
- Better communication and more notice for changes if possible.
- Masks all the time for every student regardless of age and no taking masks off in class. All school districts must provide an online only option. If you don't like the policy then stay at home and do online learning. A mail correspondence learning option for students that don't have reliable Internet in rural Alberta.
- Smaller class sizes. More and better quality PPE provided to students and staff; also provided in a more timely manner (student masks didn't arrive until weeks after classes resumed)
- More money for classrooms; classroom supports and additional custodial needs. More clearly defined plans for how outbreaks will be prevented and managed. Simply saying that there was a comprehensive plan does not mean that there was actually a comprehensive plan.
- Additional dedicated provincial funding provided before the start of school to help cover costs of cleaning and PPE.
- Concerns around lack of funding; clearer communication and not allow it to be left to the last minute. Also; there should be a requirement that parents sign the daily health checklist to hold parents accountable for their sick kids
- Clearer picture of the plan. Get feedback from teachers.
- Choosing option #2.
- Clearer information sooner.
- A much better understanding of what to do when your child is sick from the perspective of whether siblings should stay home; how long; what constituted a 'base test' for asthmatics and children with allergies (how effective was that anyway?!); how to access school work etc... when your child is sick or quarantined for 14 days.
- Smaller class sizes; ability for students to access lockers in a manner that allows for physical distancing; outline the amount of time that could be allocated for homework; clearer guidelines for attending school/symptom monitoring and when to stay home (prior to school starting).

- More dialogue between AB Education and parents -there was only one survey done in May / June to gauge how parents felt. Another survey closer to when the decision of which scenario was going to be used to gauge parents' thoughts. -the decision of which scenario being announced sooner than what it was.
- More Provincial funding so boards/schools had the ability to adequately maintain social distancing via smaller classes/hire more teachers and provide appropriate supports for special needs students. Also; there should be more adequate French Immersion online tools so students can have better access to the AB Curriculum. More advance planning and notice regarding school re-entry and guidelines. Additionally; asking Jr. High/High students to carry their binders & textbooks around is too onerous.
- Clarity and consistency of guidelines and supply chain.
- More specific and consistent guidelines provided to schools and school boards; More budget and clarification earlier on in the process; More specifics on what happens when a child tests positive; 4 day school week; earlier communication of plan.
- Funding. Provincial government funding should have been provided to ensure adequate teaching support was available to enable smaller class sizes. Financial support to ensure each school's HVAC systems were in good repair should have been provided. Finally; funding to provide mental health supports for students should be funded by the government as well.
- Additional funding for school re-entry.

In your SCHOOL DIVISION:

6) Is your school council satisfied with the re-entry plan/guidelines provided by your **School Division**?

27 (90%) Yes 2 (7%) No 1 (3%) Unsure

Comments:

- We feel they did the best they could time permitting. They have done a good job updating the document.
- Division communicated as best they could with the information that they had.....which was little to no details until a few days before school started.
- We're not given options and would like more transparency from government and school boards.
- They should have gone further requiring masks for all students at all times; but I understand that they didn't want to contradict CMOH. This pushes liability on CMOH but still puts students at risk.
- We are happy with the guidance provided by our school division. We feel they could have done even better had they had any information in advance from the education ministry. We do not look favourably on the provincial government for their dispersal of information to the public at the same time as school divisions received it. This created a situation wherein families had questions that administration couldn't possibly have answers for. We do not believe this was an accident.
- Not impressed with the late and last minute communication - this seemed to be unique to our division
- We appreciated that they used Dr. Hinshaw as their guiding star as opposed to the mixed and sometimes confusing messages from Alberta Education.
- Overall they did a good job all things considered. Some areas of concern include: need smaller classes for adequate spacing; the school board taking the quarterly choice for in-person or online away was problematic; no lockers/cubbies available for students and no hand sanitizer.
- Not enough detail/time provided prior to schools opening; so the first week or two were more stressful than they needed to be

- Our school division's re-entry plan follows the provincial re-entry plan. I do think some of the guidelines in terms of minimizing student congestion has been positive. Students are required to enter the school at various doors closest to their classrooms. Lockers have not been utilized to minimize the number of high touch areas and congestion.
- Yes; we feel that our District has gone above and beyond the provincial guidelines to make our schools as safe as possible.

7) What does your school council believe would have improved the **School Division** re-entry plan/guidelines?

Comments:

- More time for feedback from schools; ie the policy was for no lockers for everyone; now lockers are allowed for elementary schools. Some parts were contradictory within the document. Some key information was buried and difficult to understand ie the steps to take when a student is sick and when they can return to school.
- Class sizes.
- Input from parents.
- Clear and Simple Communication; More Advanced Notice; Delayed Return to allow for more time for adjustment.
- A detailed outline of how each scenario would operate. No details released in regards to online learning.
- Staggered entry; more transparency; smaller classes and options for AP students for half in class and half at home - similar to summer school. AP students were not afforded any options.
- More notice from province.
- I think that providing the option for online school to be till the end of 2020 and not require parents to commit till end of 2021 would have helped parents make the decision more easily.
- We feel that colour coding changes to plans would have made it easier for families to see what exactly has changed.
- Nothing.
- Felt we were informed fast and frequently.
- I think they did the best they could with the information that they had as they received it. Always in these cases; better communication could have improved how the messages were received and eliminated some of the confusion around options that were available but they were doing the best they could.
- Allowing for school sports in some capacity; smaller class sizes; ability for students to access lockers in a manner that allows for physical distancing.
- Look at using infrastructure to provide different schedules like after school or night classes. Allocate more of the budget to enable small class sizes and to ensure proper supports for children with special needs and vulnerable student populations. Allow students to use cubbies/lockers and provide clearer guidance on what symptoms do and don't require a child to stay home.
- Class sizes.
- Notification when any child or teacher within a school tests positive; not just when the threshold of 2 is reached; Clearer guidelines
- It would be beneficial for updates to guidelines to have highlighted portions of what has changed with each subsequence update; as not all applicable recommendations by the province have been inputted by the school division.
- Smaller class-sizes and staying with a traditional two semester system.

- We feel that additional provincial funding would have helped our school improve safety and service delivery. Especially with the anticipated increase in sub costs.

8) Did your **School Division** provide opportunities for parent input in designing the re-entry plan/guidelines?

15 (50%) Yes 15 (50%) No

Comments:

- They didn't have time.
- Email surveys were sent out but parents did not always participate.
- If they did I was not part of it nor any parent I know. I believe the government and school division have let the community down.
- They had survey and took the results and made a plan for sports/parent entry into schools.
- They had a few though exchanges online which resulted in mostly the same comments 'require masks for everyone' being repeated over and over again. I tried to connect with the Superintendent for my school district and was mostly ignored.
- Parent survey was provided.
- With divisions receiving the guidelines at the same time as the general public and so close to the start of the 2020-2021 school year we feel that school divisions didn't have the TIME to allow families to have significant and meaningful input.
- Only question asked was what option we were leaning towards
- Not directly but they did meet with our group of school council chairs three times (once at the end of the 2019-20 school year; once in August and once at the end of September) to hear our feedback and questions and help share information in a transparent way. We understood that our 'input' could only go so far as they were bound by the AHS guidelines.
- We were all sent surveys on school re-entry and planning and our school and administration did a phenomenal job of ensuring teachers and children were socially distanced on entrance; within the school; and in class. Would have liked to be able to provide input earlier (ie in May) regarding class size; more detail on how they are planning the set up at school and how they will manage kids interaction over free periods and lunches. A format such as virtual meetings could have been employed to allow parents to provide input.
- There was input about the feelings on returning to school but no input on designing the re-entry plans.
- Our district sent out a survey in June. Additionally; our trustees and central office were constantly gathering feedback from parents; caregivers; community members; and students.

If YES:

Were the opportunities for parent input in designing the re-entry plan/guidelines provided by your **School Division** appropriate? 13 Yes 4 No

Comments:

- They were only doing what they were directed to do by AHS.
- Surveys sent out.
- I mentioned that girls are most likely to suffer educationally during this time as Internet enabled devices typically go to the oldest son. The superintendent said that she saw the same thing with

school fees where they would pay for field trips for the son but not the daughter. The difference right now is that we are talking about the daughter not getting an education.

- Our school district sent out its own survey to its parents with questions regarding reentry.
- We believe that our trustees and central office afforded parents every opportunity to provide input and actually took that to heart.

Did your school council contribute to the re-entry plan/guidelines created by your **School Division**?
(Note: contributions could include encouraging parents to participate in surveys, etc.) 11 Yes 4 No

Comments:

- Parents did not read the emails.
- I contacted over 300 parents from my school but for the most part parent feedback has been ignored in the re-entry plans.
- Encouraging participation in parent survey.
- We passed on surveys and shared information widely through all of our social media.
- Not as an individual school council but as individual parents.
- Yes; we encouraged participation in surveys and engagement with trustees and central office.

If NO:

In what ways would your school council have wanted to provide input into the re-entry plan/guidelines designed by your **School Division**?

- It would have been great to be able to provide feedback if there had been more time.
- Staggering of classes/start times; options; sanitization methods/products; mask requirements; psychological support.
- District Wide Survey; an opportunity to speak with the district; School Council representation (almost like a COSC format) speaking on behalf of the parents of each specific school.
- A meeting at least a month prior to review the plan of action.
- To be part of the discussion with health officials; government and school boards every step of the way along with full disclosure and transparency.
- It would have been beneficial to show the plan the get feedback; rather than get a bunch of random ideas and then come up with a plan that ignores most of what was suggested.
- Our parent council would have wanted to know how we could support staff in their plans. We were happy our board decided to do a staggered entry but would have asked for it to be done with younger grades starting last vs first. We also feel that being able to inform students of what the year was going to look like in advance would have given much needed support to students with anxiety. Anxiety in students is already a large mental health concern; before we introduced a global pandemic into the mix.
- A holistic survey asking for parent input and feeling around the re-entry plan and how to make the transition smoother.
- Smaller classes and more space between students which would have required more money from the province.
- We are happy with the re-entry plan and realized that for something this serious; plans need to come from a higher level.
- Difficult as provincial guidelines would have to be followed.

- Being able to address concerns regarding class size; adequate access to substitute teachers and teaching assistants.

9) Did your **School Division** communicate the re-entry plan/guidelines clearly to parents before the start of school? 28 (93%) Yes 2 (7%) No

Comments:

- To the best of their ability under a tight deadline.
- Not soon enough.
- Except for the online school. More detailed information should have been provided to parents in regards to how the school would run; what courses would be offered; etc.
- Timeline to make the decisions was too narrow; information was not detailed enough for parents to make an informed decision.
- We are several weeks in and just figuring out how the semester will go. There has been very little communication about the reentry plans.
- Our school and division administrators worked a tremendous amount of their summer creating numerous plans for many scenarios. Had they had better; sooner and clearer direction from the provincial government and education ministry they could have really focused on what was going to be most important.
- Information was clear but very late.
- Frequent updates.
- Overall yes; but it could have been clearer around certain timelines and options available.
- We were provided guidelines not only from our division but also from our school that was more specific to them.
- Two separate meetings where held with all school council chairs; one at the end of June and another in mid-August. This was very helpful.
- Yes; the division communication has been timely and complete.

10) Does your school council believe that your **School Division** is properly informing parents of the health and safety protocols in place for school re-entry with respect to COVID-19? 28 (93%) Yes 2 (7%) No

Comments:

- We feel the Division should be getting advanced notice of changes made at the provincial level for they aren't getting the info at the same time as schools and parents.
- The policy is changing weekly. Parents and students and so confused right now.
- Now that the school year has started.
- Very much. They have been incredibly good about emailing; posting on websites and social media and informing where possible.
- Information was shared however there was no communication with respect to how they were addressing old ventilation systems in the schools.
- Yes; we believe the district is keeping parents and caregivers up to date with information and is consistently updating their website.

At your SCHOOL:

11) Is your school council satisfied with the re-entry plan/guidelines provided by your **School**?
27 (90%) Yes 3 (10%) No 0 (0%) Unsure

Comments:

- Not everyone was given a choice or clear understanding of what was happening.
- Emails were sent out prior to classes. Ongoing communication when school started.
- We have a new principal. She is just figuring things out right now.
- A staggered entry would have been desired so that students can get use to teachers; rules and other students especially in the younger grades- they were gone for 5 months.
- Our admin and teachers were amazingly prepared given the short turnaround. Truly miraculous.
- Some things that could have been better include more communication at the start of the year on things like what class Students were in and how to find them. Also having smaller classes to enable better social distancing and providing hand sanitizer would also be helpful.
- Would like more small group or partner work and more mask breaks when appropriate; Not enough detail/time provided prior to schools opening; so the first week or two were more stressful than they needed to be.
- I do think some of the guidelines in terms of minimizing student congestion has been positive. Students are required to enter the school at various doors closest to their classrooms. Lockers have not been utilized to minimize the number of high touch areas and congestion. Students were brought in on a staggered entry which was a very positive experience for both students and staff.
- Yes; we are happy with the re-entry guidelines at our school.

12) What does your school council believe would have improved the **School** re-entry plan/guidelines?

- Having more time to develop the plan; time for feedback;
- More input opportunity from parents.
- More lead time with more information and input from school council and parents via an online survey.
- Input from parents; transparency; honesty from government officials and options to all families. Smaller classes; staggered entry and combination of in class and home.
- We used to have a weekly newsletter; this has stopped and been replaced with an occasional email from our chief superintendent. We don't know what is happening in the school anymore.
- Smaller classes would have been the most effective way of keeping students and staff safe. Getting information to boards sooner would have allowed them more time to enact and share their policies and procedures. The mask delivery was very late to our school. And many of them were ill sized. Had these masks been offered through local businesses in partnership with the government and facilitated through the local school boards we think it would have been better implemented. When our first consideration is payback for a political donor we are doomed to underserve.
- Nothing; it was one of the faster/smoothen re-entry plans
- They did amazing.
- Allowing for school sports in some capacity; smaller class sizes; ability for students to access lockers in a manner that allows for physical distancing.
- Allowing the schools to have the information from Alberta Education sooner so that schools had more than a week or two to finalize their plans before school began.
- Explore additional health precautions such as: staggered starts; additional teachers & bus drivers; more supports for special needs & vulnerable students; upgrading/replacing ventilation systems; more masks & hand sanitizer and; possibly having Students complete & submit (online) health surveys prior to attending. Explore adding more online tools available in French and cubbies for Students where lockers were removed.

- Would like more small group or partner work and more mask breaks when appropriate; Some communication was challenging for new families - it often required some knowledge of the school to interpret the messages (e.g.; what/where is door “s4”?)
- We believe that the communication with parents and caregivers was timely and done with the most up to date information possible. While there could have been some more clarity around when students were allowed 'mask breaks' we feel that the masking requirements are a big part of safety in our school. Once this was explained; it went a long way to satisfying people.

13) Did your **School** provide opportunities for parent input in designing the re-entry plan/guidelines?
12 (40%) Yes 18 (60%) No

Comments:

- No time.
- Other than stating if we would be sending our children to class or opting for virtual learning.
- Virtual Q&A held between school administration and parents and staff. Parents were given an opportunity to submit question ahead of time and our school's principal and school council chair hosted a virtual Q&A in August; before we had to make a decision around in-school/out-of-school learning.
- Survey sent out.
- It was talked about in parent council and they asked parents for feedback.
- Parent advice has been mostly ignored; our school council had changed because many parents chose to move to the online school. The online school has no school council even though it is mandated by Alberta Education. The principal at the school I'm at wants to take a break from school councils for 2020/2021.
- Survey would have been nice
- We just expected them to follow the guidelines
- Unsure. These plans took place in the spring when we were given the opportunity to consult with the division on the criteria for selecting a new principal. We were busy with that work.
- They kept us informed and accepted our feedback but again; they were focused on safety first.
- School council was able to have input at the final meeting of the year in June. Because the school district put out their own survey, our school council believed that an individual parent survey for our school would have caused too much chaos.
- There was so much information from the district it was often difficult to recall if the source was the school or district. Some parents however felt that we were not provided with the opportunity to participate in drafting or providing input on plans and that there was lots of room for improvement with respect to communication from the school. Any opportunity for input would have been appreciated including surveys or virtual meetings. Would have liked to see more consideration for high risk children; students who were learning risks due to gaps caused in spring and the provision of more supportive networks for learning for these students.
- Principal called each parent to communicate directly with them what their concerns would be going into the school year.
- Needed to follow protocol that is already laid out by AHS.
- Yes; we engaged in surveys.

If YES:

Were the opportunities for parent input in designing the re-entry plan/guidelines provided by your **School** appropriate? 12 Yes 2 No

Comments:

- Through submitted questions and the Q&A.
- Yes; we believe that our concerns and suggestions were taken seriously; it wasn't just lip service but genuine engagement.

Did your school council contribute to the re-entry plan/guidelines created by your **School**? (Note: contributions could include encouraging parents to participate in surveys, etc.) 11 Yes 5 No

Comments:

- Parents who read the email participated in the survey.
- We echoed all of the communications that the school distributed through our social media and newsletter.
- Yes; we encouraged parents to participate in surveys and contact trustees and central office.

If NO:

In what ways would your school council have wanted to provide input into the re-entry plan/guidelines designed by your **School**?

- It would have been great to provide feedback before being released but there was no time.
- Mask requirements; sanitizations; staggered entry and dismissal; bussing; supports for families in isolation.
- It would have been good to have a meeting to review the plan of action and provide parental input. The more lead time the better; however; the schools did not have detailed information until a few days before school started.
- Transparency from government and health officials. Disappointed by the disregard of children; family and community safety. Should not have two sets of rules for public and the children of our future. Children may not get sick but can be carriers. I think all students should be tested on a regular basis to find asymptomatic students.
- Mostly with respect to social distancing norms and practices for students wearing masks; hand sanitizing upon entry; policies in the event that we had one COVID19 infection or we had an outbreak (2-4) or were put on watch (5+).
- There was no time for families to offer opinions of any value due to the very short notice from the provincial government and education ministry. We would have had opinions on exam cancellations (in favour). Scheduling of exams if we had been in scenario 2. What scenario 2 would look like: half days or alternating days.
- We would have wanted the government to give us a clear answer which scenario would be implemented so we could have anticipated what guidelines would be appropriate/needed.
- Again; we understand that things are different and the input about re-entry goes beyond our own school's control.
- Also; would liked to have had input into back up plans for when children do stay home if attending in-school (during symptom etc) and more effort to place Students in classes with their friends in order to minimize the mental health impact of separation.

- Being able to address concerns regarding class size; adequate access to substitute teachers; teaching assistants and mental health supports.

14) Did your **School** communicate the re-entry plan/guidelines clearly to parents before the start of school? 28 (93%) Yes 2 (7%) No

Comments:

- Everything has been hours before the launch. It seems that we are coming up with the plan as we go.
- But only a few days before.
- Again; we simply used our reach to connect parents to the info from the province/division/school.
- We had our own school guideline and our principal also made a video tour to post online for parents to watch so we could see what the school would look like.
- Most teachers sent emails out to parents before the first day of school of what to expect. Social media was another tool used although there were concerns that not every parent is on social media.
- Emails were shared with parents on three different occasions; with updates as required prior to the start of school.
- Yes; they communicated the most up to date information and continue to do a fabulous job updating our website which is a real information hub for parents.

15) Does your school council believe that your **School** is properly informing parents of the health and safety protocols in place for school re-entry with respect to COVID-19? 28 (93%) Yes 2 (7%) No

Comments:

- Through a weekly newsletter.
- Because of the ever changing policies it's unclear to parents what is required. There are also a number of parents that don't believe COVID19 is a real threat.
- Regular communication via multiple forums.
- Especially given we've had positive cases. They're doing great work!
- It has been evolving since the beginning of the year but each newsletter from the school repeats the protocols and processes and is accessible to parents when they need it.
- Yes; via newsletters and the website.

16) Is your school council satisfied that the safety, health and wellbeing of students in your **School** is being appropriately addressed?
28 (93%) Yes 2 (7%) No

Comments:

- I blame the government and health officials for the lack of transparency and a plan - there was plenty of time to get it right and they failed. They have hidden the truth and dropped information at the last minute. Fail to Hinshaw and Kenny. Life is more important than economy.
- The wellbeing of students and parents is being affected by specific parents and students that believe that COVID19 is just the flu. These people are not following AHS guidelines and nothing is being done about enforcing that students follow the rules. So at this point they are merely

guidelines that can be broken at any time. The result is that over 100 schools had to send COVID19 infection notices out. This is having a bigger impact on the wellbeing of parents and students than a stricter policy and clear guidelines for enforcement.

- Especially the focus on mental health and well-being. Admin has made that a focus and pulled back on too much homework and testing
- They have done the best they could with large class sizes and lots to manage. We are impressed overall and grateful for the staff commitment to the students and health.
- With the current number of students; there is no way to maintain proper distancing. There has not been anything communicated about the state of the ventilation system. More consideration should have been given to allowing students to be in the same class as their friends in order to minimize the mental health impact of separation. Also; it would be prudent for Students to complete & submit (online) health surveys prior to attending.
- But still always need for more mental health; counselors; resources; educational assistants (all very important during this heightened time).

17) What changes to students' daily **School** routines are most notable?

- Masks.
- No assemblies allowed.
- Limited socialization opportunities, not able to be in the school before classes begin, limited group activities, loss of field trips, loss of catering/food service on site.
- Parent drop-off; student entry into the school; masking; sanitization; access for volunteers.
- Remembering to take a mask to school with your child. Doing the daily checklist.
- 2.5 hour classes are very long and information is being delivered at a high speed. Tough to adjust to the lack of social interaction in the school. Increased stress and anxiety due to non-standardized education throughout Alberta but students are still expected to write a standardized diploma exam. Not an appropriate time for these exams.
- Masks; Cohorts; Sanitizer; Specific Doors; Staggered lunch breaks.
- None besides masks. Class sizes too large; hallways are over crowded. Nothing else is different.
- 10% absent; masks in hallways and bus.
- Occasional masks; hand sanitizer; markings on the floor.
- Students gr 1 -9 are masked when social distancing is not possible - students only leave classroom to participate in gym - specialist teachers travel to students homeroom class room - students stay in cohorts in their own areas at recess times - students only use lockers for outdoor winter gear; keep all belongings in bins in classroom - frequent handwashing / sanitizer - no volunteers; visitors allowed in school building - no field trips - no visits to library to browse for books.
- Constant interruptions to teaching to remind students to sanitize and wear their masks properly. Much has been lost with restrictions on group work; both educational and social. Some kids who only come to school for extra-curricular activities and options are really struggling and missing out this year. We are happy that lockers will be allowed as there were growing concerns with the very heavy weights that students were left to carry around at all times.
- Kids are staying in their classes more. Due to Covid the students are unable to connect as a whole such as at assemblies; in the halls; at recess.
- Waiting outside ; staggered playground play; library time. Lack of interaction with other grades.
- Masking; lunch cohorts; locker use.
- Lots of Sanitizing. Difficult for Jr High kids to be in one room all day. With the cooler; wetter weather the need to be inside all day and at lunch will be difficult.

- In the beginning; the lack of extracurricular activities (though understandable that other things needed sorting first). It has quickly come to feel 'normal' for our student.
- Staggered entry is one. Kids being asked to wear masks to sing. No parents on the school grounds.
- All day masks - different exit and entry points - cohort recess and lunches - no leaving school grounds - no assemblies - no sports teams - Not moving classrooms - Less connections with friends and the larger community - no school events or field trips.
- Wearing masks in the line up and having more time per classroom to hand sanitize and then enter the school. The kids don't go to the park before the bell so they hang around near the doors. And I'm sure having to stay in their own classroom bubbles and not mix with other grades; would be a notable difference in routine. As well as music coming to them instead of going to the Music room. And no library. They also eat in their own classrooms this year instead of lunchrooms . Kids are very adaptable and I'm sure they're all adjusted fine!
- Less socialization; longer class times; school year divided into quarters; condensed learning; masking; increased cleaning required; physical distancing; no sports activities.
- Loss of options for junior high; example band. Family seating plans on bus. Cohorts within the school that may not include students friends. Gym; activities during gym class. Recesses.
- Safety measures including masks; frequent handwashing; entry and exit from school and social distancing. Academic impacts include more school work than before probably because is a quarter rather than a year (?); no small group or peer-to-peer learning; difference in teaching methods (eg. no science labs); reduced/no arts & music; no library time and; a lot of the options are cancelled. Social implications include: limited socializing at lunch and no third recess because of all the time needed for cleanliness; no extra-curricular activities like sports & excursions. Other considerations include Students having to lug all their books around all day due to no locker usage; start and end of day times may be different for siblings; no opportunity for hot lunch and once students are home; we have to clean and change clothes etc.
- Masks and staggered entry into school.
- No lockers.
- Lots of sanitizing; wearing of masks; entry and exit procedures (more spreading out of student entry and exit doors); no supervision before school; not allowed on playground before and after school; distancing from peers (way less group work; recess staggered with less kids out at the same time); kids being kept in cohorts; more desk time than in the past.
- Mealtimes have been affected as there is only one sink in most classrooms and students have to line-up to wash hands. Students are playing outside more due to outdoor gathering restrictions having to separate cohorts.
- The concentrated hours in class; lack of access to lockers and having to remain in the homeroom for lunch hour; if choosing not to leave campus; are the most notable changes to the daily routine.
- Masking; cohorting; and the students miss the interactions with other kids outside their cohort. No assemblies; no field trips; no 'grade one buddies' for the division 2 students; and no extra-curricular activities.

18) Are parents in your **School** being asked to pay for, or contribute to the cost of, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or sanitation/hygiene supplies?

4 (13%) Yes 26 (87%) No

Comments:

- The masks from AHS do not pass the candle blow test. This is leading to a huge amount of anxiety among parents. We spend more money on hand sanitizer and masks with better filters to better

protect our family. It feels like this is not enough to protect us from those believe that COVID19 is just the flu.

- Only cost would be from those who choose to purchase masks for their children (in addition to the 2 provided by the government).
- Masks; sanitizer; more wipes; kleenex then in past years.
- Not yet. However; we chose to replace an old water fountain with a bottle filler.
- As parents; we haven't been asked directly to cover these costs but it is inevitable given that our children are in elementary school. They lose masks so they need to be replaced and masks were not provided for younger children so we purchased our own. The masks provided by the government were uncomfortable &/or did not fit some children. We had to provide sanitizer if we wanted it for our children. Also bus fees went up to compensate for school cost (or so we were told).
- Most teachers in the school kept the Province-supplied masks at school for use if a student forgot their mask; or a mask became soiled; and most parents have purchased masks.
- Parents are wondering about guidelines of the use of specialty hand sanitizers due to eczema and other skin conditions; especially now that the weather is getting colder.
- Should a student forget to bring a mask I believe they are charging for a replacement mask.