

August 28, 2020.

Good afternoon,

Enclosed is the most recent update from the Reopening Negotiations. This weekend a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will be generated, which will be presented at the next negotiation meeting where both teams will, hopefully, agree that the document is complete, so we can send it out to you.

It is our hope that we will be able to post the document on either Friday 9/4 or Monday 9/7. After the MOA is posted it is my intention to have a meeting with every school to answer any questions pertaining to the document.

The MOA deals with reopening ONLY as this is the first phase. We will be constructing MOAs to deal with each phase of the opening as we approach it. Please be on the lookout for continued updates.

The following is a list of items that we have reached consensus on at our most recent meeting:

The first item is the last part of scheduling that was brought forward in the last email and deals with the high school schedule.

At WHS, for the 2020-2021 school year, we propose a block schedule consistent with required time on learning. All classes will meet every week but not every day in order to allow for longer periods of synchronous and asynchronous learning. Student schedules will be constructed to allow participation in all Westfield Promise, Dual Enrollment and work opportunities. The provisions of this agreement will not supersede the contract.

The next item concerns acceptable allowances for the use of face shields by staff.

There are 4 conditions for use of face shields

1. For nurses and specialized teachers with special populations will use N95 and possible face shields.
2. Clear face masks will be available for some students and teachers with hearing impairments.
3. Majority of staff will wear mask as covered in school safety video
4. For a limited group of faculty, the option of a face shield with a skirt without a mask, will be approved for health conditions or work with a population of students who need to see a full face. A faculty/staff member would need approval from the building principal and nurse for this option.

The next items are clarification of information presented in the last email.

1. The Isolation/COVID room is for students only! If a staff member reports they are sick, they do not go into isolation. The teacher needs to call the office and report their illness to administration, gather their belongings, and leave the premises as soon as coverage arrives.

2. The safety checklist continues to be a work in progress. Building inspections will be conducted in the upcoming week. As soon as we receive an all clear, buildings will be open to faculty and staff.

Personnel Items that consensus was reached on

1. In the case of a mandatory shut-down, Unit A members have the option of returning to the building to perform the essential functions of their job and may do so as long as it is in accordance with CDC, local DPH and State guidelines.
2. Teachers who are teleworking and would like to access the building for supplies, will be permitted to do so as long as the access is outside of school hours. The teacher must first contact the building administrator to make such arrangements.

Please be on the lookout for the complete MOA which will be coming to you in the very near future. If there is someone in your building who doesn't seem to be getting the information please let them know it's been sent. All information can also be found on our website

[Westfield.massteacher.org](http://Westfield.massteacher.org)

With kind regards,

Lori