

EARLY BIRD WEEKLY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

July 30, 2020

Last Week, was another Zoom-only meeting.

Opening with the Pig Inspiration (donate to the piggy bank to End Polio), Bill showed a slide with some [encouraging statistics](#).

For the last five years the world has seen around 100 total new Reported Cases of polio. For more than three years only TWO countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, have seen wild polio cases.

One slide comment was that the Taliban has lifted the ban on Red Cross workers.

(User) iPhone asks, "Do people who are against vaccines not want to vaccinate against polio also?"

Actually, it's more the remnants of campaigns of distrust. Many elders and imams warned people, some banned them, about accepting medicine from Western medicine. Remember, the term Evil Empire isn't really that old. And stories get bigger as they're passed on morphing best intentions into sterilization campaigns.

Our presenter, **Dr. Joe Morelock**, is Superintendent of Newberg School District on the topic of what to expect from the 2020-2021 school year amid pandemic.

The obvious first concern is the health and safety of 550 staff and 4,850 students.

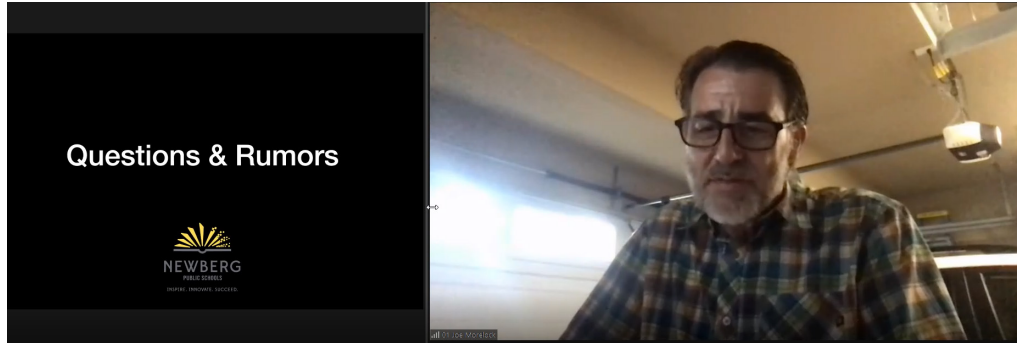
How to manage distancing, face coverings, hand washing, temperature monitoring. The district just got another 50 gallons of hand sanitizer from the county.

What will we do when symptoms present at school? How do we isolate them until we can get them home? And what does that mean for the rest of the building(s) that student had been in?

With a school district the size of Newberg's it is estimated to cost an additional \$2.36 million to meet health protocols, provide personal protection equipment, and added transportation costs.

Some of the options the district has considered include resuming in-person class for all, comprehensive distance learning, and a hybrid of online and in-person.

In-person is simply not possible yet due to COVID-19 health and safety restrictions and there are not enough open classrooms or



empty schools to bring in younger students every day. Some districts have older schools that had been closed before COVID, we do not have that option.

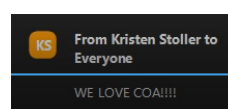
Distance Learning is very different than pre-COVID. It is the full curriculum with all class meetings online. While not ideal right now it would be the likely fallback if there's an outbreak in one or all of our school buildings.

Hybrid appears to be where we are headed. Essentially, we would split the school "in half" and considered cohorts. One cohort would attend in-person Mon/Wed, the other on Tue/Thu.

The school day may have fewer subjects and would be shorter because we can't have kids out on recess sharing equipment and lunch would be grab-n-go instead of buffet.

There will also be an equity-based effort to accommodate the kids struggling the most to allow them on campus for three instead of only two days.

Another alternative had existed before COVID-19. Formerly known as COLA, Chehalem Online Academy, has been around for years. It was built from the ground up to be online for K-12 and will grant access to students from any Oregon school district free of charge.



Getting To The New Normal:

Some will choose to just return to school via COA and possibly return at a semester break, others may go the COA route for the entire year.

The Hybrid is the district's current focus as we bring school back in cohort/online

shuffle until safety conditions improve or a vaccine is developed and released.

Many districts in the West are considering 100% distance learning to start the year then transition to the cohort/online hybrid as health and safety conditions warrant.

Joe's off the cuff considerations for the things to think about slide include bus transportation (added time to clean between runs, enforce face coverings), food service, PPE, curriculum changes, ADA accessibility, technology access and connectivity*, childcare, substitute teachers, heightened cleaning protocols, etcetera.

The district has purchased several hundred "HotSpots" to service student devices without access to internet. It is quite common for the only internet access in a home is the parents' cell phone(s). And of those with ample data plans, no all allow tethering for nearby devices. The tech team actually drove around the entire district's "hinterlands" with a couple different

models to make sure they chose the option that would best serve the most students. But, since HotSpots rely on cellular coverage, there are still some students with no access to curriculum.

Childcare has been a huge hurdle, even for district employees.

Q: What about sports?

A: Pushing start date back for fall sports to Sept 27th but no football. We could end merging three seasons into two.

Q: What can we, as Rotarians, do?

A: Remind people, when you get into a weird conversation about politics, it's about health and safety and doing this well. People tend to get wrapped around the axle (*I love that visual*) a little about a return date. We simply don't have control of that.

