

ETA Secondary Meeting

11-12-20

The following questions were gathered during a meeting of secondary reps on November 12, 2020.

Question	Answer
Do SIP and SD continue to have their traditional roles during this time?	Yes, more than ever the leadership committees at the sites are integral to the effective execution of the instructional program and its safe implementation. [jj]
It seems to me conceptually that admin do not understand what teachers are experiencing this year. What are some ideas or approaches that might help with this disconnect, and maybe result in fewer "small" additional tasks for members to do.	I presume that the Informal Observation process and the reflective conference afterwards would provide just such an opportunity. Additionally, inviting admn to attend classes and engage in the process from the teacher side and co-teach a lesson could be instructive. [jj]
What is the status for gen ed high school to return to school for 2nd semester?	The district continues to make plans for the return of students for in-person instruction. The planning is significant and may or may not result in a plan that can be implemented based upon ongoing changes in community COVID conditions. [jj]
They must provide advanced recognition of their attendance, even though it is informal?	Per the contract, advance notice is not a requirement. That said may times admin will "alert" teachers they intend to perform informals in the coming days. In this environment it seem prudent that they give a specific heads up as the lesson may not be scheduled to have much teacher/student interaction. If that's the case when they show up, they can "leave" and come back a different time. [jj]
SLO--Suggestions how to complete this in the DL environment or should we wait until back in school?I feel it looks different in DL. Just looking for how to do this effectively and have it mean something.	Teaching and learning is currently occurring. The SLO process is intended to provide feedback to the teacher about the effectiveness of the instructional practice. Since there aren't hard, quantitative measures in the plan I suggest taking a look at other SLO examples and see if there is one to adapt to your classroom. [jj]
Some social workers have been back in the building for a month or more and some are being asked to return in the near future. Social workers are expected to deal with students in crisis and there are multiple members of the department that have made medical requests and have received the appropriate documentation from doctors stating that they CANNOT be in their buildings. Some of these requests go back to August. Social Workers still have not heard from HR and yet they are still being expected to be in the building despite not hearing from HR. We have members of our department, and other ETA members, where it is a life or death situation. Why is this acceptable and why isn't HR making it a priority for SSWers who are CRISIS responders in our buildings?	Barbara and I have been meeting with HR to address gaps in communication, in general. Specific to those identified in the question, Barbara has been in individual meetings with HR and the social workers making the request to stay remote. Each of those cases is being evaluated on a case by case basis. We have expressed the frustration and understand the requests are being processed albeit not as quickly as we all desire. [jj]

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<p>Got an email from our principal this week reminding us that we should be apolitical in our classrooms (presumably she has heard about teachers pushing a particular political position). Contract specifically states we must remain apolitical during <u>lessons</u>. But if our students would like to have a political conversation, are we prevented from engaging them in that? Are we liable to be disciplined for expressing our opinions during non-instructional time?</p>	<p>During a typical school year it's easier to delineate between when a teacher is teaching during a class period and when they are not. Depending upon the year and the people involved, these matters can and do become the subject of disciplinary investigations. While I believe teachers can have a non-partisan discussion about political matters it is clearly a conversation that will come with some risk of scrutiny. [jj]</p>
<p>So if a classroom is being "closed" for cleaning because of a possible COVID Exposure, why are teachers working the building not being informed? We are being told only if person tests positive.</p>	<p>If an individual becomes symptomatic at school and goes home, the room is to be cleaned. The individual may or may not get a COVID test let alone a positive result. In short, the cleaning of a room occurs out of an abundance of caution and can occur prior to an individual getting a test result. If and when a positive is reported, notice will go out to the staff. Be aware that receiving notice of a COVID positive in a building does not confirm that the individual was in that particular room as there can be more than one room subject to such a cleaning. [jj]</p>
<p>We keep getting told to call home instead of email. The option we are provided is to use our cell phone and a google app to hide our #. In the past, when the district was in litigation, we were told NEVER to use our personal phone for work business. Is this still true? If litigation happens again, can our personal devices be used/requested as evidence? I don't feel comfortable making calls until a district program is provided. What does ETA recommend? (The app cannot be used with our u46 email, by the way)</p>	<p>If using your personal cell phone or home phone, then *67 still works to block your number. When I call members from my cell I tend to use this function. I also try to email them in advance to let them know it will show as blocked so they pick it up. If this option is insufficient for you then you are welcome to use the building and their phone to make calls. The district shared that the option available for free to the district last year is not free this year and was hardly used last year, when it was free. [jj] I use a webbased service called Text Free. It give you a dummy phone number and you can text parents from your computer, you don't have to use your cell phone for it. (dk)</p>