



Back To School Forum

August 9, 2021

ANKENY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Slide 1: Intro



Agenda

- I. Welcome - Director Tagliareni
- II. Back to School Update - Dr. Pruitt
- III. Q&A - ACSD Team
- IV. School Breakout Session - Building Principals
- V. General Session - Dr. Pruitt
- VI. Closing & Next Steps - Dr. Pruitt

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Slide 2: Review the agenda



Welcome



Ankeny Board of Education
Vice President
Amy Tagliareni

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Slide 3: Good evening and welcome to the Ankeny Community School District Community Forum. Thank you for coming out tonight to learn from and provide feedback to our administration.

My name is Amy Tagliareni and I am currently serving as the Vice President of the Ankeny School Board.

When the board was charged with hiring a new superintendent last fall, we were unified in our commitment to finding someone who valued and understood the importance of communication. Not just communication for communications sake, but an understanding that we need clear, bi-lateral dialogue between the district and students, parents, staff, community and the board. Tonight is one of the first steps in opening the lines of communication between the district and the community at large. Our hope is that we all can approach the conversations this evening with an open mind and a shared commitment to considering what is best for ALL students in the district.

The district is undertaking a number of large initiatives with none bigger than updating the Strategic Plan. A strategic plan helps the district formalize its mission, vision, values, goals, and objectives. The current plan will sunset next year and across the district discussions are beginning to bring a fresh, updated perspective that includes developing goals that align with the needs of students today and into the future. The district will engage the community and other stakeholders in feedback sessions that will develop a set of priorities and outline a path to improvement.

If we work together with a united goal of providing a world-class education for ALL students in our district, we can take Ankeny from good to great. To do this will require some self-reflection from everyone. There is a deep divide in this community right now and pretending it does not exist is an exercise in futility. Everyone in this room, everyone watching online, everyone that has a stake in the success of the Ankeny Community School District, including me, including all board members, need to take a beat and decide if the path forward for us will be driven by grievance or greatness. And this I can promise you, whatever path we choose we will get the outcome we deserve.

To give us the details of how tonight will work, I would now like to introduce Dr. Erick Pruitt, who just completed his first month as the Ankeny Superintendent. Dr. Pruitt embraced the message that communication is a top priority and with that understanding, scheduled this forum to communicate directly with all of you. We are excited for what Dr. Pruitt and his team will share with us tonight and in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen, Dr. Erick Pruitt.



Our Mission:

Ankeny Community Schools is unified in its commitment, passion, and vision so every learner is prepared to achieve a lifetime of personal success.

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Slide 4:



Community Agreements

- Be Curious, Open, and Respectful - call in not outthrow sunshine not shade
- One mic - one voice at a time
- Speak from your own experience - Use I statements rather than generalizations
- Challenge assumptions
- Be conscious of intent vs. impact - no matter intention you're responsible for your impact
- Avoid using terms without explaining what you mean by them
- Encourage each other to follow the ground rules
- It's not about perfection but about connection...and learning
-

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Slide 5: Today is our opportunity to redefine how conversations occur between district administrators, parents and our community. I'd ask that everyone read our community agreements. (allow time to read). As we have more opportunities to engage one another I welcome feedback on this list to ensure everyone has a voice and opportunity to engage one another.



ESSER Requirements

By August 20, 2021 each district must:

- Assume that the Return To Learn Plan has been updated
- Assume that the district's current Return To Learn Plan ensure continuity of services in the event that school is disrupted
- Assume that the current version of the district's Return To Learn Plan is posted to the district's website

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Slide 6 :

- Districts received ESSER requirements from the Iowa Department of Education about ongoing return to learn efforts which include

- Revisiting the plan at least every six months
- Receiving public input on the plan
- Identifying how the district will respond to disruptions due to the pandemic, and finally
- The plan must always be accessible to the public

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SIAC and Website Feedback:

- Draft was shared at the SIAC meeting on 6/14/21 and published
- Public comment began June 25, 2021
- Featured post on the website obtained 86 unique page views outside the direct email campaign, with an average time spent of 2 minute 9 seconds spent on page

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Slide 7:

- The Return to Lean addendum was drafted early in the summer.
- The draft was shared during the June meeting of the School Improvement Advisory Committee and
- The draft was posted on our website for public review and feedback

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SIAC and Website Feedback

- What is the process for positive cases?
- Will students be socially distanced?
- Appreciation for the mitigation steps
- Focus on social and emotional health
- Continue to ask parents and the community for input
- Appreciation for 100% onsite learning

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Slide 8:

- Listed on this slide are a few of the common questions that arose during SIAC and via the website form, which will be addressed later this evening.

	Updated CDC Guidance (7.27.21)	Current Iowa Law & Public Health Initiatives
Face Coverings	Fully vaccinated people wear masks indoors in areas of substantial or high transmission. School staff, students, and visitors to schools wear masks, regardless of vaccination status.	Districts may not require masks to be worn on district property. However, they may be worn at the individual's discretion.
Vaccination	Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end COVID-19 pandemic.	Iowa Department of Public Health maintains a vaccination website with info about vaccinations.
Other Mitigation Strategies	Students and staff should stay home when showing signs of any infectious illness and be referred to healthcare provider for testing and care.	District may not quarantine, per public health authorities. Other mitigation strategies, including urging "stay home if sick" are permissible.

Slide 9 :

- This chart compares the most current CDC guidance from last week with the state laws and health initiatives that we will follow to begin the school year.
- **Concerning Face coverings**
 - The CDC recommends that **Fully vaccinated** people wear **masks indoors** in areas of **substantial** or **high transmission**.
 - **Under Iowa law** Districts **may not require masks** to be worn on district property. I encourage all parents to speak with a health professional and make the decision on whether to send your child to school with or without a mask.
- **Vaccinations**
 - **The CDC has also identified that Vaccination** is the leading public health prevention strategy to end COVID-19 pandemic.
 - To allow Iowans to make the best decision for their families, The Iowa Department of Public Health maintains a **vaccination website** with info about vaccinations.
- **Mitigation Strategies**
 - Students and staff should **stay home when showing signs of any infectious illness** and be **referred to healthcare provider** for testing and care; however,
 - District **may not quarantine**, per public health authorities. **Other mitigation strategies**, including urging "stay home if sick" are permissible.

	CDC ORDER (2.1.21)	Direction from IDPH and DE (8.6.21)
Face Coverings on School Buses	Passengers and drivers must wear masks over the nose and mouth when traveling on school buses .	The Feb. 1, 2021 CDC mask order for public transportation applies to school buses .

Slide 10:

- On August 6th, we received information from the Iowa Department of Public Health.
- The information received confirmed that an order issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention requires passengers and drivers to wear a mask on school buses
- This includes buses operated by public and private school systems.
- Therefore, all Ankeny students as well as Durham School Services Drivers and Bus Monitors will wear masks on school buses.



Summer 2021 Return To Learn

At the current time, the Ankeny Community School District plans to operate under its normal, standard processes and procedures and will continue to follow all state and federal laws, including in-person learning for students and optional mask usage for all students, staff, and visitors. The Ankeny Community School District will follow policy and handbook language unless changes are directed by governmental authorities.

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Slide 11:

- Based on all the information we have, the District plans to operate under its normal, standard processes and procedures.
- We will continue to follow all state and federal laws, including in-person learning for students, required mask usage on buses and optional mask usage for all students, staff, and visitors.



Summer 2021 Return To Learn

The Ankeny Community School District will follow the guidance of the Iowa Department of Public Health and Iowa Department of Education to respond to positive cases of COVID-19 for students and staff.

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Slide 12:

We will continue to monitor the guidance from the Iowa Department of Education and the Department of Education to respond to positive cases of COVID-19. Details on the current guidance will come later in tonight's presentation.



Summer 2021 Return To Learn

The Ankeny Community School District will continue to support the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors through the following mitigation practices:

- Increased circulation of outdoor air through the HVAC system
- MERV-13 filters in HVAC systems
- Encouragement of students and staff to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently
- Increased availability of hand sanitizer in common areas and classrooms
- Custodial cleaning practices will be focused on cleaning for health, which includes an emphasis on disinfecting surfaces where bacteria or viruses are most likely to be transmitted
- Working with local public health authorities to determine what additional measures may be warranted

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Slide 13:

- The practices listed on this slide are a continuation of the district's mitigation efforts to keep our students, staff, and visitors safe.
- In all district buildings we will continue to encourage frequent hand washing, ensure hand sanitizer is available in common areas and classrooms, and
- Our custodians teams will focus on disinfecting surfaces where viruses and bacteria are most likely transmitted.
- As we process through the school year we will continue working with our local public health authorities adjust strategy when needed



Summer 2021 Return To Learn

The Ankeny Community School District will ensure continuity of services for academics, social emotional health, mental health, and other needs, including through:

- Multi-Tiered System of Supports for learning
- School counselors and social workers
- School nurses
- An expanded partnership with Employee and Family Resources

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Slide 14:

- The practices listed are a continuation of work from the previous school year.
- Our goal is to ensure services and academics for our students and staff are supported throughout the entire school year.



Purpose of Remote Learning

The purpose of providing a **remote learning environment** for the 21-22 school year is to **respond to** the continuing **COVID-19 pandemic** and the **requests** of families needing to educate their children remotely **for the health and safety** of the child and/or their family members.

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Slide 15:

- We received emails from parents concerned about their child's and/or their family members health condition as a result of potential exposure to COVID-19 when in-person learning resumes.



Process to Design & Implement

- (7/29) Survey families to determine needs.
- (8/2) Design remote learning to best meet the needs with resources with minimal impact onsite classrooms.
- (8/5) Communicate remote learning format and criteria, and provide registration link.
- (8/12) Register students.
 - (8/13-8/20) Conduct individual meetings for students with specialized learning needs

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Slide:

- In response, our process included
- Surveying families on July 29 to determine need
- Based on data the collected, our team designed and shared the remote learning plan with families on August 5t
- Parents will be able to register for remote learning until August 12
- For our students with specialized learning needs Individual meetings will be scheduled with parents to ensure student is receiving needed services

- When registering for remote learning, we are requesting documentation of a student's health condition or statement that a household member may be at greater risk of COVID-19.
- Parents with students receiving special education services that are requesting the remote learning option will have to meet with your child's IEP team to determine potential impact on delivery of special education services.
- There will be limited access to electives and a potential impact on graduation for our students in 9th through 12th grade for parents that elect the remote option.



Remote Learning Environment

- Student learning will be asynchronous through the Edgenuity platform - a third party vendor with a curriculum designed for student to complete all learning online.
- Students with IEPs will have individualized plans that ensure they receive specially designed instruction (SDI).
- Students in remote learning environment will maintain a seat(s) in their assigned onsite classroom(s).
- High school students maintain current online coursework options such as DMACC online academy

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Slide 20:

- Remote learning for students will be asynchronous through the Edgenuity platform.
- Students with an IEP will have individualized plans that ensure they receive specially designed instruction (SDI).
- All Students participating in a remote learning environment will maintain their seat(s) at their assigned on-site classroom(s).
- High school students maintain current online coursework options such as DMACC online academy



Entry and Exit of Remote Learning Environment

- Students meeting the criteria may request entry into the remote learning environment at each marking period
 - Elementary - each trimester
 - Secondary - each semester
- Students may request a return to onsite instruction as follows:
 - Elementary - any time
 - Secondary - each semester

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Slide 21:

- Parents of Elementary age student may request the remote learning option prior to the beginning of each trimester and are able to request a return to onsite instruction at anytime during the school year

- Parents with a student at the secondary level may request the remote learning option prior to the beginning of each semester and are able to request a return to onsite instruction towards the end of each semester



Q&A

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Slide 22: Questions on index cards

- I've asked my executive cabinet team to join me in answering a few questions from the community. Let me first introduce who I have up here with me today:
 - Darin Haack, Chief Operations Officer
 - Jen Lindaman, Chief Academic Services Officer
 - Jennifer Jamison, Chief Financial Officer
 - Jessica Dirks, Chief Human Resources Officer and Legal Affairs
 - Ken Morris, Director of Equity
 - Samantha Aukes, Director of Communications

Q: Will we be closing classrooms and sanitizing in the event of a local outbreak? The district has done this in the past with Rotavirus or even severe flu cases. Or does the law prohibit this because schools must offer full-in person?

A: We will monitor positive cases in classrooms carefully. We will deep clean classrooms with electrostatic disinfectant in classrooms with positive cases. IDPH continues to ask K-12 schools to report when >10% of students are absent due to illness. When >10% absenteeism is reported, IDPH will contact the Local Public Health (LPH) department in the county where the school administrative offices are located. Public health will contact the school to provide best practices and support tailored to the specific types of illnesses being reported.

Q: Will there be social distancing, especially at lunch when masks can't be worn?

A: Lunch will be back to standard practice. Principals may make adjustments based on what they learned over the past year to make their schedules work better for students.

Q: For children under the age of 12 who are not yet eligible for vaccination, how does the district plan to accommodate CDC recommended mitigation strategies? Has consideration been given to creating "mask wearing" classrooms so ALL parents have a true choice?

A: We are not able to separate class sections based on mask preference. We do not have the staff or facility resources to accomplish this.

Q: Will students (specifically my 8th grade student) be changing for gym class this year?

A: All students are required to wear school-approved physical education attire during physical education classes. This includes dark-colored shorts and a gray t-shirt. For your convenience, shorts and shirts with the Ankeny Physical Education logo are sold at local retailers. Students must wear tennis shoes when in the gyms.

Q: Will masks be required on busses?

A: The Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Department of Public Health have provided information to Iowa school districts that confirms that an order issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention requires passengers and drivers to wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems. Therefore, all Ankeny students as well as Durham School Services Drivers and Bus Monitors will wear masks on school buses.

Q: Will there be an online learning option?

A: Yes, this information was presented earlier in the presentation.

Q: How do you plan to support learning for those students who miss weeks of school due to COVID-19 infection?

A: Families will work with the building staff to design a plan that works best for the student. This may include periodic synchronous support.

Q: How do you plan to support learning for those students whose parents choose to have them quarantined when exposed?

A: Families will work with the building staff to design a plan that works best for the student. This may include periodic synchronous support.

Q: Will the free lunch program continue this year?

A: Breakfast and lunch will be free the entire school year. Charges will still apply for ala carte. Please complete the free and reduced eligibility application if you believe you may qualify, as other free benefits may apply. There will not be curbside pickup meals like last year and this summer. For families choosing the remote option, more information will be coming out about meal pickups for your children soon.

Q: What governing body will we follow when making decisions around safety measures?

A: The Ankeny Community School District will follow the guidance of the Iowa Department of Public Health and Iowa Department of Education to respond to positive cases of COVID-19 for students and staff.

Q: Why has the school district not made a strong statement encouraging the use of masks?

A: Under Iowa law, school districts may not require anyone on district property to wear a mask. However, we welcome students, staff, and visitors to wear masks, and a supply of disposable masks will be available on all district property for those who need them.

Q: Will teachers and staff help make sure students who are supposed to be masking are keeping their masks on at school?

A: While, under Iowa law, school districts may not require anyone on district property to wear a mask, our teachers - who are committed to building student knowledge every day - will answer questions about how to properly wear masks from those students who choose to wear them.

Q: How will you ensure that everyone's choice (whether to mask or not mask, vaccinate or not vaccinate, etc.) is encouraged and protected?

A: The district wants to hear from our students and parents and will continue to work to provide an environment that is supportive of the choices families make. Bullying is unacceptable. The district will continue to provide training and support to our school leaders and teachers to recognize and effectively eliminate bullying.

Q: Will Ankeny Schools be teaching Critical Race Theory?

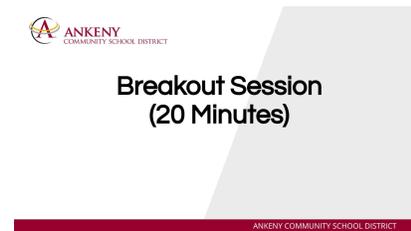
A: CRT has been conflated with discrimination and bias toward white people. It is not! CRT is a practice interrogating race and racism in society that emerged in the legal academy and spread to other fields of scholarship. To be clear, CRT is not itself a substantive course or workshop and therefore is not taught in Ankeny Schools. It is an approach or lens through which an educator can help students examine the role of race and racism in American society. CRT recognizes the value of centering the voices of people who have historically been marginalized. We want our community to know it is the policy of the Ankeny Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status in its educational programs and its employment practices.

Q: Will I be notified if my child is exposed? How will I be notified when my child has had a known exposure?

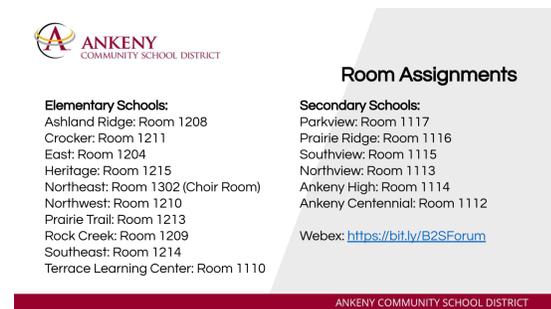
A: Yes- You will receive an email via our mass notification system, Blackboard, if your child has had an exposure to a COVID-19 positive case.

Q: How will we be informed of a Covid outbreak at our child's school?

A: The Iowa Department of Public Health issued new guidance on August 6, that states "IDPH continues to ask K-12 schools to report when >10% of students are absent due to illness. When >10% absenteeism is reported, IDPH will contact the Local Public Health (LPH) department in the county where the school administrative offices are located. Public health will contact the school to provide best practices and support tailored to the specific types of illnesses being reported."



Slide 23:



Slide 24:

- For our in person participants please move to your corresponding room based on where your child will be attending school.
- Our participants online: Please use the Webex link to join our virtual breakout room. It is now _____pm we will come back together at _____pm

Parent Advisory Council

Slide:

- Welcome back. I know that was not a lot of time; however, each school has scheduled time to meet with parents and students before school begins. The feedback you provided will be reviewed and used to improve how we serve our students.
- Before you end the evening I liked to introduce an opportunity to regularly meet with parents across the district by starting a Superintendent Parent Advisory Council

Purpose

Bring together parents/legal guardians to assist with achieving the districts educational goals and supporting the success of each students through receiving input and feedback on activities and strategies intended to support the success of each student.

Slide 26:

- The purpose of the council would be to bring together parents/legal guardians to assist with achieving the district's educational goals and supporting the success of each student.
- We have a lot of great things occurring on every campus
- I want to receive input and feedback on the activities and strategies intended to support the success of each student.
- Additionally, parents will be a great asset in identifying untapped resources for our students and staff.



Comparison with SIAC

	School Improvement Advisory Council (SIAC)	Parent Advisory Council
Purpose	Make recommendations to the Board related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major educational needs Student learning goals Long-range and annual improvement goals Desired levels of student performance Harassment & bullying 	Share input and ideas with the superintendent and senior district administrators in support of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving the district's educational goals Supporting the success of each student
Membership	Students, parents, teachers, administrators, community representatives (business, industry, labor, community agencies, higher education, other community constituents)	Parents and legal guardians of students enrolled in the Ankeny Community School District

Slide:

- Some of you may be asking how the Parent Advisory Council compares to SIAC.
- For SIAC is to
 - The purpose is to make recommendations to the Board related to
 - Membership is open to students, parents, teachers, admin, and community members, and
 - This group meets 4-5 times a year
- In the Parent Advisory Council
 - The purpose is to engage and collaborate
 - Membership is limited to parents and legal guardians, and
 - We will be meeting monthly



Our Mission:

Ankeny Community Schools is **unified** in its commitment, passion, and vision so **every learner** is prepared to **achieve** a lifetime of **personal success**.

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Thank you!

It is the policy of the Ankeny Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status in its educational programs and employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints or discrimination. If you have questions or an grievance related to this policy please contact Ben Mervin, Equity Director at 502-391-5100 ext. 4000, mervin.b@anekeny.org or benmervin@anekeny.org. This grievance will be resolved through the appropriate administrative channel with respect to the program or department involved in the grievance.

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