



# Sonoma Charter School

## Special Governing Board Meeting Agenda

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**Monday, June 15, 2020**

**5:30 p.m. Closed Session • 6:30 p.m. Open Session**

*Due to County guidelines in place regarding social-distancing,  
Closed and Open Sessions will be held online from remote locations.*

*Access to the Online Session of the meeting requires online security code  
which will be provided upon request by contacting School Director, Marc Elin  
Email: [melin@scs.k12.ca.us](mailto:melin@scs.k12.ca.us) • Cell: (707) 480-6488*

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Sonoma Charter School adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act. Should you require special accommodations, or more information about accessibility, please contact us at (707) 935-4232. All efforts will be made for reasonable accommodations.

### **5:30 p.m. CALL TO ORDER**

**Recess to Closed Session** -- Board to consider and/or take action related to:

**Public Employment** (Govt. Code 54957)--

- Review of Service Contracts
  - Personnel Assignment Order
  - Director Evaluation
- 

### **6:30 p.m. RECONVENE AND REPORT OUT**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** The Governing Board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and provides this time for members of the audience to address the Board on any school-related matter not on this agenda. The Board can take no action at this time. Each speaker is to limit comments to three-minutes.

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## **AGENDA**

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### **I. GOVERNANCE:**

**A) Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for June 8, 2020** .....Action

### **II. FISCAL:**

**A) 2020-21 School Budget Development -- Updates**..... Discussion

### **II. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES:**

**A) School Re-Opening Plan** .....Discussion

Discussion of SCS Instructional Response Plan related to  
California Re-Opening Stage 3 conditions for schools:  
Smaller student groups to achieve/maintain social-distancing.



# Sonoma Charter School

## Regular Governing Board Meeting Minutes

**Monday, June 8, 2020**

**5:30 p.m. Closed Session • 6:30 p.m. Open Session**

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*Due to the Governor's Executive Order to Shelter-in-Place,  
Closed and Open Sessions will be held online from remote locations.*

*Security code access to the Online Session of the meeting  
was provided upon request by School Director, Marc Elin*

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### **Open Session:**

Meeting called to order at 6:34 p.m.

### **Attendance:**

Present: Greg Stubbs, Alex Wilkens, Barbara Brooks Rob Church, and Lissa Turnbull

Absent: Elizabeth Link

Teacher Representatives: Rachel Cisneros, Tara Conover

Administrative Staff: Chief Business Officer, Molly Koler and School Director, Marc Elin

### **Report Out from Closed Session:**

*No Action Taken*

### **Public Comment:**

Board Chair, Greg Stubbs, read a statement from parent/staff member, Katie Giller, who was unable to attend Board meeting. Mrs. Giller, who was also the coordinator for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Ceremony, reported how well the June 6<sup>th</sup> event went for the attending students and families along with a limited number of staff. Special thanks to 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents who assisted with the set-up and gift table for graduating students. Mrs. Giller also reported on attending Black Lives Matter protest at the Town Plaza and noted several SCS alumni who spoke eloquently at the event. She hopes that SCS continue to offer classes (i.e., Drama, Student Voice & Expression, and Art) that provide our students with the skills and confidence to express themselves publically.

Director Elin noted that he presented Katie Giller with the Director's Award for her tireless commitment to the school through PTO service and general volunteering efforts.

Greg Stubbs mentioned that the Marsha Walter's award was given to Nadine Harmon and Scott Anderson for their many years of commitment to the school community.

Alex Wilkens shared how the SCS Community raised \$1,700 at the end of the year to help maintain classroom teaching assistants and the Art and P.E. programs.

Director Elin explained that the food service for families in need will be provided during the summer via Sonoma Valley Unified.

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## AGENDA

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### I. GOVERNANCE:

#### A) Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for June 8, 2020 .....Action

Board Action:

Rachel Cisneros ..... Motion to Approve

Barbara Brooks ..... Second the Motion

Vote ..... *All Approve*

#### B) Governing Board Member Recruitment:

##### Open Positions for Community, Parent, and Teacher Representatives .....Discussion

Discussion regarding the vacancy of one Community Representative position and one Parent Representative position on the Governing Board and how someone would express interest in joining the board. Director Elin explained the process and stated that he will post the open positions which start on July 1, 2020 on ParentSquare. PTO President, Brandy Church, requested to have the open positions of the PTO Executive Board included on the post.

Two teachers, Tamara Lemesh and Becky Perkins, have volunteered to serve as teacher representatives to the Governing Board for the 2020-21 school year -- replacing Rachel Cisneros and Tara Conover who have served as representative during the 2019-20 school year.

*Note: Teachers Representatives serve only one-year while Parent and Community Representatives serve three-year terms.*

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### II. FISCAL:

#### A) 2020-21 School Budget Development -- Updates ..... Discussion

Director Elin spoke about the sequential steps in establishing a school budget and that SCS was on step 6 out of 7 in the process.

The Governor's May revise of the Budget calls for 10% cut to state funding of education. The Legislature is considering overriding the Governor's proposed cut.

Chief Business Officer, Molly Koler, explained that there is a possibility that the 10% cut will not be approved by the Legislature; however, we need to budget as if the 10% is going into effect. Final determination of state funding for school may not be finalized until August.

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### II. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES:

#### A) School Re-Opening Plan.....Discussion

Discussion of Instructional Response Plan for changing conditions:

Environmental (wildfire/power alerts) and/or Health (virus prevention)

Director Elin discussed three options for reopening the school for 2020-21 school year. He has received parent input from an online survey, teacher input from multiple group discussions and is now discussing these options with the board members.

Board members discussed the three re-opening plans all schools need to prepare for:

- **Plan A** -- All students at school as regular with safety/health precautions applied.
- **Plan B** -- Students in smaller groups to achieve/maintain social-distancing.
- **Plan C** -- All students at home for Distance Learning (shelter-in-place).

Barbara Brooks wonders if county suggests that we do not open, do we need to follow this advice. Director Elin replied that all schools need to apply the guidelines to their school facility, size of student population, and available staffing resources when crafting a response plan to the three scenarios A-B-C.

Alex Wilkens would like to see a budget with the current loss of revenue and salary increases that we would need to do to provide more student support for re-opening with students being socially distant from each other.

Public is concerned about staffing levels for some of the options and having enough devices for each child in case we need to go to distance learning again. Director Elin noted that the school has 1:1 relationship between equipment and students and that the few homes that did not have Internet access, were provided with an Internet Hot-Spot.

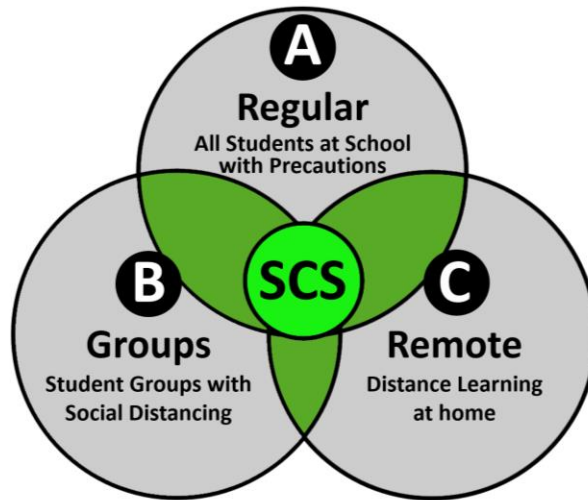
Staffing levels are an on-going discussion that will need to be determined at a later date.

*Meeting adjourned.*

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Molly Koler on June 8, 2020.

## June 11 Planning Meeting for August Re-Opening

*Striving for.... “Serving every kid, every day -- in a safe way!” (with family options)*



*Re-Open School in 2020-21 with a Flexible Master Schedule designed to address changing social/environmental conditions.*

### **Gathering SCS Voices to Develop a Plan that Benefits All**

*Collecting Voices from Staff in meetings and Survey.*

*May 19 , 20 , 21 , 22 • June 3 , 4 , 5*

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*Collecting Voices from Parent Survey.*

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#### **June 8 SCS Governing Board Meeting**

*Hearing of Stakeholders Voices*

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#### **June 11 Plan Detailing Group**

*1:30 p.m. Zoom session with Staff, Parents, Board Members*

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#### **June 15 SCS Governing Board Meeting**

*Presenting a Re-Opening School Plan to SCS Community*

***We are in the Middle of a Pandemic!***

***Changing Conditions Require Flexible Planned Options...***



***...Made at the Local School/District Level  
with Guidance from State & County Agencies.***

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT • THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020 A3

## The North Coast

### Schools craft plan for reopening

County officials develop blueprint for safely getting kids back in class

By KERRY BENEFIELD  
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Calling the reopening of classrooms in August a priority, Sonoma County's schools chief and the county's top public health official on Wednesday outlined a framework for re-

suming classroom instruction while adhering to health and safety guidelines to quell the spread of the coronavirus.

The plan, described as a roadmap for reopening by county Superintendent of Schools Steve Herrington, is expected to be presented in full Friday to officials from the county's 40 individual school districts. Its partial unveiling comes just two days after state schools chief Tony Thurmond released similar guidelines to offer a framework for starting the 2020-21 school year in approximately eight weeks.

Herrington said the local recommendations are an attempt to fine tune and localize the state guidelines while offering instruction that is specific to Sonoma County's 40 separate school districts and approximately 70,000 students. The video call was attended by more than 220 participants and in-

cluded Sonoma County Health Officer Dr. Sandra Mason.

"You can't compare Sonoma County to Colusa County; you can't compare it to Iron County," Herrington said. "The epidemiology in one county will not dictate the practices of other counties."

Local guidelines unveiled Wednesday include maintaining 6 feet of social distance, the use of cloth facial coverings, establishing outdoor learning spaces, offering instructions to parents about home health screenings, encouragement of frequent handwashing, separating materials between students and keeping windows open on school buses while limiting riders to two per seat instead of three.

Schools are encouraged to examine distance learning and socially distanced classrooms

TURN TO SCHOOL • PAGE A4

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#### OAKMONT VILLAGE » EVACUATION ROUTES



### RP council remains committed to districts

Leaders reject push by group of residents to amend plan for district-based elections

By KEVIN FIDLER  
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

A concerned push by a group of Robert Park residents critical of the city's approved plan for district elections required this week a prolonged dispute about the transition with a new



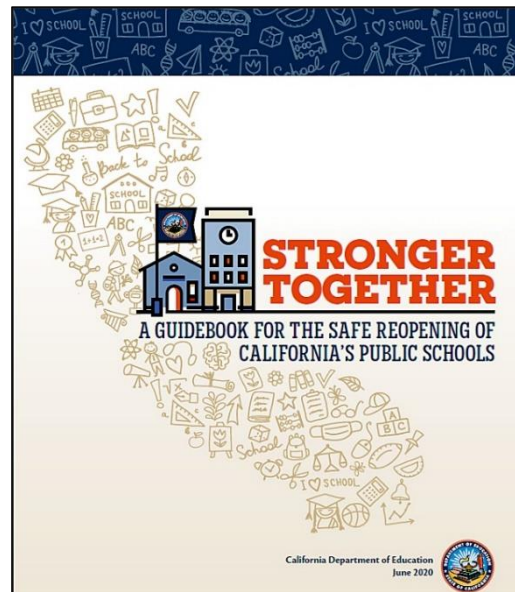
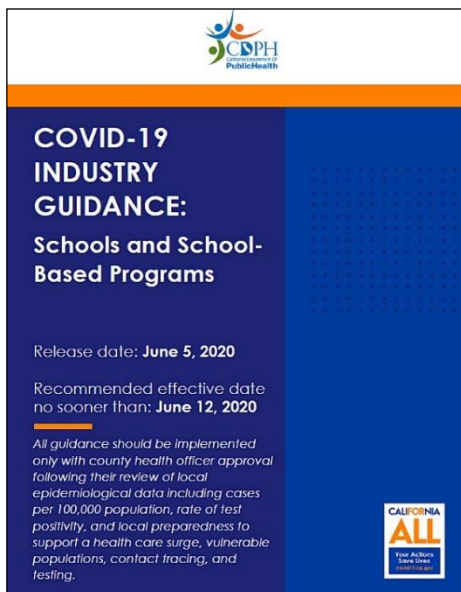
## Guidance from State & County Levels

**On June 12, California will move into Stage 3.**

Schools should expect to Re-Open under Stage 3 conditions/guidelines.



Publications from California Dept of Public Health and California Dept of Education.



## Roadmap to a Safe Reopening

### Aligned With:

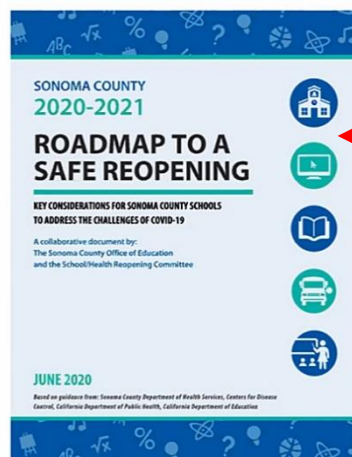
Sonoma County Health Order C19-14

### Based on Guidance From:

- Sonoma County Department of Health Services
- Centers for Disease Control
- California Department of Public Health
- California Department of Education

### In Collaboration With:

- The School/Health Planning Committee
- Regular meetings (3) with the 40 superintendents of Sonoma County



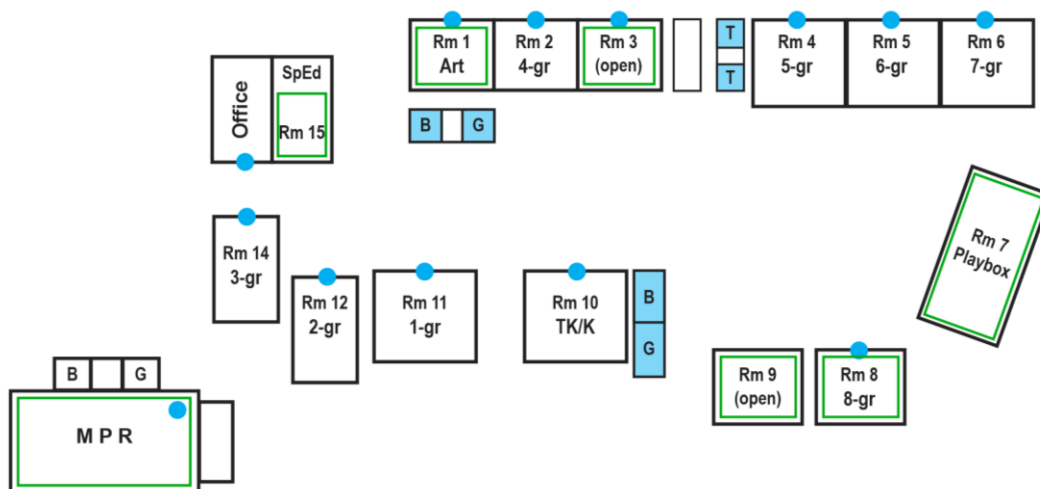
**In consultation with  
public health dept.,  
SCOE will release  
on June 12, 2020  
the guidelines for  
reopening schools.**

## School Re-start Based on CA-Resiliency Stage-3

### Stage-3 Aligns with School Plan B

*Students in cohort groups with social-distancing applied.*

- ✓ **Plan “B”** is all about making the student population smaller by creating groups of students (typically two) that can more easily achieve/maintain **social distancing** (6-feet separation).
- ✓ **Plan-B** will look different across schools/districts based on
  - available space on the campus,
  - size of the student population, and
  - size of available staff.

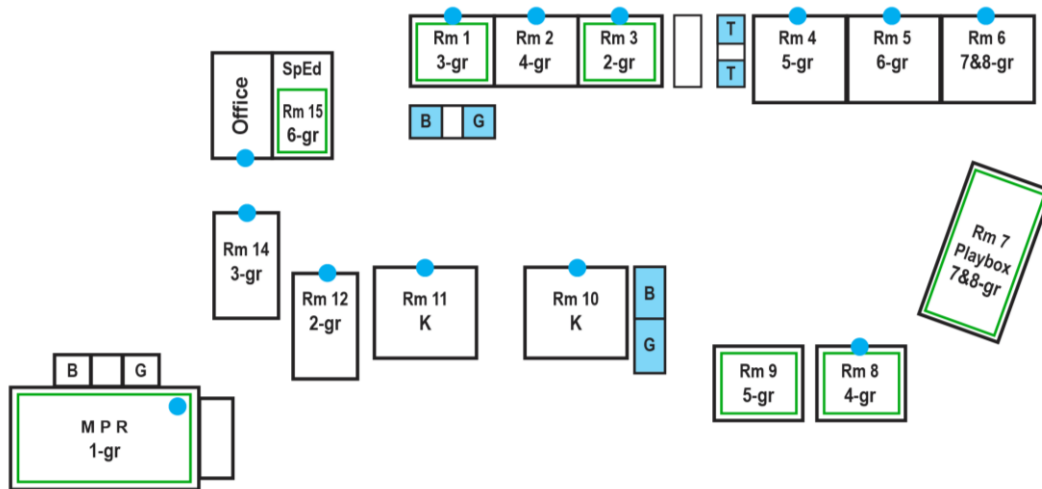


### Plan-B Specifics for Sonoma Charter School:

- ✓ **Available Space for Instruction:**
  - 9 Classrooms (K-8)
  - 6 Additional Spaces Available of Campus
- ✓ **Inside water/sinks in all available spaces except 3 (Room 9, Room 15, Playbox)**
- ✓ **Small total population: 205 students (23 avg class size).**
- ✓ **Additional staff to support delivery of instruction by classroom teachers:**
  - 4 Teacher Assistants (grades K-3)
  - 4 Support Staff (Art , P.E. , Tech Coord, Admin)



## Two Versions of Plan-B for Sonoma Charter...



### **Plan-B1 = ALL students on campus for instruction**

#### **Two Student Groups created for each classroom (except 7-gr)**

- **Group-1** in homeroom classroom with teacher.
- **Group-2** in additional learning space watching livestream video of classroom teacher with support provided by additional staff.
- **Groups 1 & 2** would rotate on alternating days into homeroom.
- **(WED?)** = Appointment Instruction Day on Campus (other students at home)
  - Plan-C Families contact day with classroom teacher.
  - Student Intervention Sessions (8 or less per room)
  - SpEd service delivery

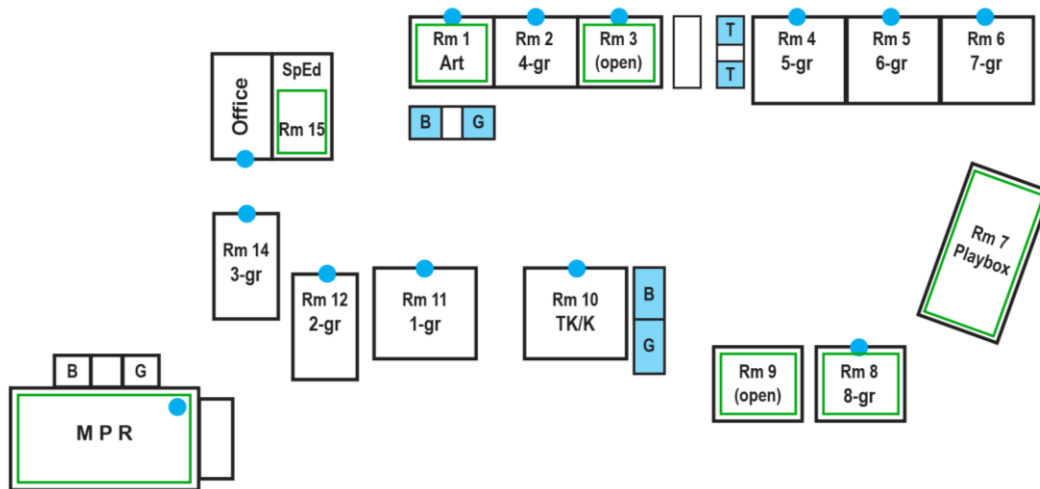
#### **B1 Plan Strengths....**

- *Kids on campus more consistently for learning (4-days per week vs 2-days).*
- *Kids get more practice/support with new digital learning tools, which they will all need when school has to shift to Plan-C during school year.*
- *Kids get more socialization -- more access to staff & peers.*
- *Livestream Video can be also be accessed by C-Plan families.*
- *Less need for parents to seek childcare.*

#### **B1 Plan Challenges....**

- *Staff absences would make challenging to cover all expanded learning groups.*
- *Additional expense to extend Teaching Assistants beyond 4-hrs per day.*

## Two Versions of Plan-B for Sonoma Charter...



### Plan-B2 = Half On-Campus and Half At-Home

#### **Two Student Groups created for each classroom (except 7-gr)**

- **Group-1** in classroom with teacher.
- **Group-2** at home with Plan-C (Distance-Learning).
- **Groups 1 & 2** would rotate on alternating days for on-campus learning.
- **(WED?)** = Appointment Instruction Day on Campus (other students at home)
  - Plan-C Families contact day with classroom teacher.
  - Student Intervention Sessions (8 or less per room)
  - SpEd service delivery

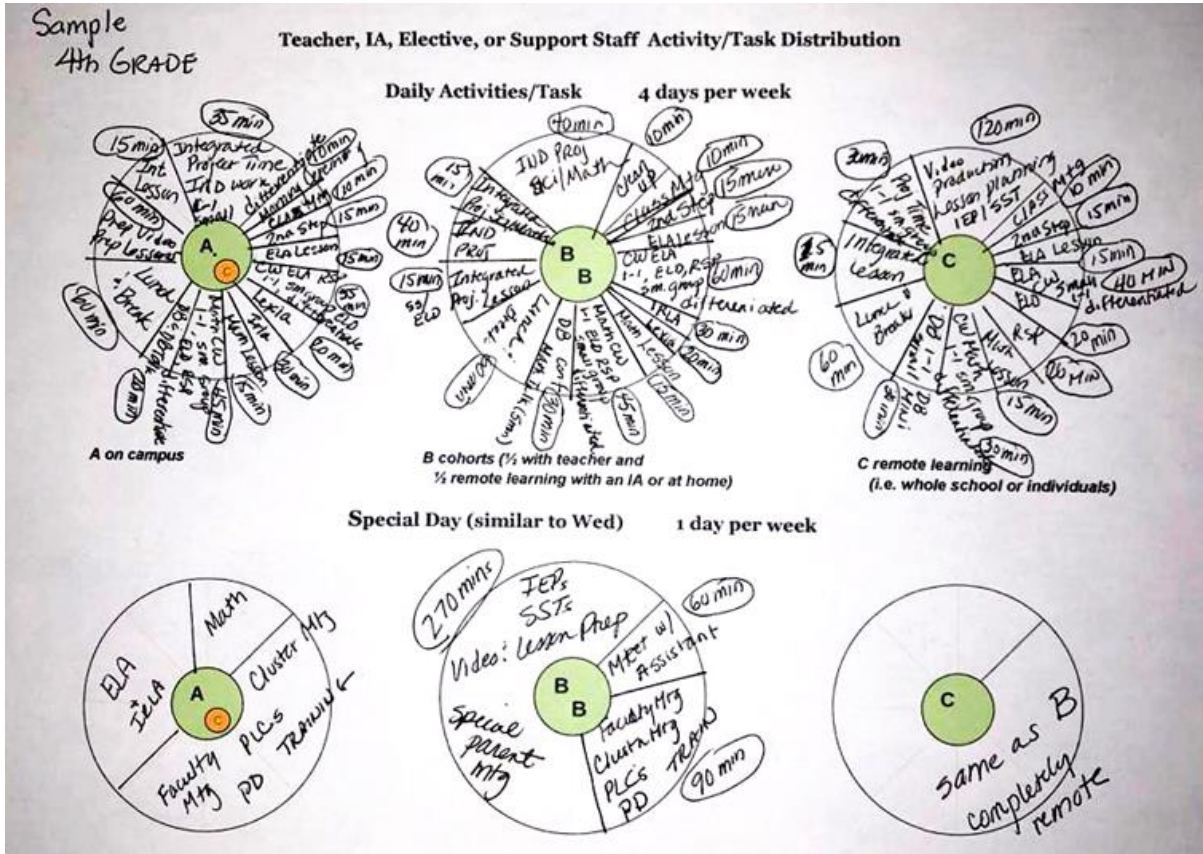
#### **B2 Plan Strengths....**

- *Staffing & facility resources not as stretched compared to Plan B1.*
- *Student access to Art & P.E.*

#### **B2 Plan Challenges....**

- *Reduced student access to staff and structured learning (on campus only 2-days).*
- *Teacher instructional design/delivery mode for distance-learning days.*
- *Higher percentage of Distance Learning will affect engagement/attendance thereby reducing funding (schools in this circumstance, apply for hardship waiver which lowers ADA funding level)<< This would have a more profound effect for SCS since we projected to have higher enrollment in 2020-21.*
- *Families without adult supervision/childcare 3-days per week.*

## Teacher Considerations for Plans A-B-C:



As part of the June 5 staff meeting dedicated to the Re-Opening Plans, teacher/support staff explored multiple aspects of each plan including:

- **Structure and Logistics**
- **Instructional Design and Delivery of Content**
- **Teacher Time Considerations** -- *graphic above is from an activity asking teachers to develop “time-charts” related to each plan.*

**Staff Survey**  
(18 respondents)

**What do you feel was your biggest challenge during Distance Learning?**  
(check all that apply)

- 60% (12) Student Engagement**
- 55% (11) Lack of In-person Interaction** (with other staff & students)
- 40% (8) Communicating with Students and Families**
- 
- 25% (5) Teaching Content**
- 20% (4) Technology Components**
- 20% (4) Lack of Clear Understanding of Job Function**
- 0 Time Management**

**What do you feel was your biggest success during Distance Learning?**  
(check all that apply)

- 55% (11) Communicating with Students and Families**
- 55% (11) Providing one-on-one support to students and families**
- 
- 40% (8) Technology Components**
- 35% (7) Teaching Content**
- 30% (6) Student Engagement**
- 30% (6) Time Management**
- 20% (4) Providing one-on-one support to other staff members**

## Parent Survey Results (as of June 5, 2020)

### Please describe your biggest concern(s) about the re-opening of school in August? (98 replies)

How are children going to being able to practice social distancing and wear mask. If someone gets sick how are families going to be informed; how are families going to be sure people are adhering to CDC/WHO/State guidelines and if they don't what are the consequences.

No concerns at the moment. However, We have to be sure that every parent must be conscientious that the student must remain at home in case of symptoms of a strong cold.

My biggest concern is that kids will come to school sick and spread covid19. That you won't have enough thermometers to screen students or not enough staff/time to use them. And that the campus won't be cleaned daily, a lot of extra janitorial work.

Risk of infection that may be brought home to immunocompromised individuals living in the same house. Technology access, including internet as we were unable to access it even with the provided hotspot. Access to accommodations and modifications for students with IEP's and 504's and students who are English language learners. Parent communication in general as well as English AND Spanish. Homework help and support or students who are not native English speakers.

How to maintain proper social distancing? What are the sanitation protocols? Will this be full-time class room, or partial home learning and less students in class a portion of the day or week to maintain distance?

My biggest concern is adjusting to all of the changes, but then again we already have. It's a huge challenge for EVERYONE, it's the new reality, so I think a gradual easing into another new system might be less disturbing.

The health and safety of the students, faculty and parents -- Committing to a plan as soon as possible so that we can figure out and secure work schedules/child care. - Creating a scenario where the kids can connect with each other and their teachers in a meaningful way - Making sure our kids keep learning and growing!

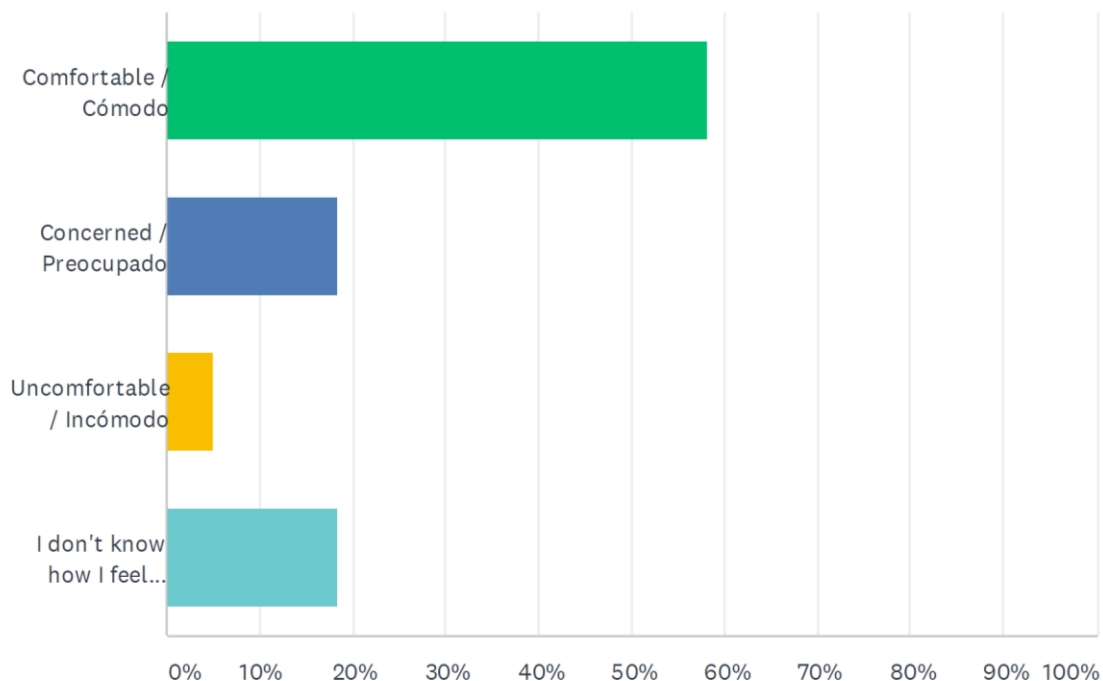
## Plan A -- *All Students Everyday with Precautions*

Our top priority goal is to develop a plan where all students can be at school each day in a safe/clean environment that includes social distancing and health/hygiene monitoring of students.

We have identified additional spaces on our campus should we need to create smaller groups with even more space between students.

**How would you feel with the plan to have all students on campus everyday using the health/safety guidelines described above?**

Answered: 98 Skipped: 0



**57 Comfortable**

**18 Concerned**

**5 Uncomfortable**

**18 I don't know how I feel about this right now.**



## **Plan "A" Comments -- *All Students with Precautions***

I would just like to know how you will keep things clean and safe for all. I'm concerned that this year was a loss with all that has happened and worry if the kids will be ready. Especially with the cluster 3 kids, I also am concerned on how the school will monitor all the children with all the cuts that have been made and losing most of the aides. What will be used in the classrooms to keep them sanitized. Will there be some sort of spray, will school provide masks for the kids that can't or don't have one many questions and many concerns at this time and just trying to put my head around the whole thing.

I think as long as families, staff, teachers and kids follow the rules we should all be fine.

How the group movement throughout the day will happen

The smaller then groups the better

Something would need to be done about recess and how it is monitored- the kids were barely monitored before and it was way too lax. I would need to feel assured that the teachers and staff are vigilant in their practices required for safety at the school. We have been following recommendations from the CDC and government on how to shelter in place and stay safe and I see so many families not adhering to protocol. How do we know if the teachers and staff have the same vigilance that we do? Some may not have the same beliefs and not feel it is necessary to follow all guidelines. I would want to be able to send my child off to school feeling confident that he is as safe there as he is at home.

Would love to understand the flow of the day and group sizes of how interaction would play out.

I of course am very concerned about the health of our children, however I hope by August, we should be able to have the children in close proximity to each other.

I would need to see the plan of how this would work to make an informed decision.

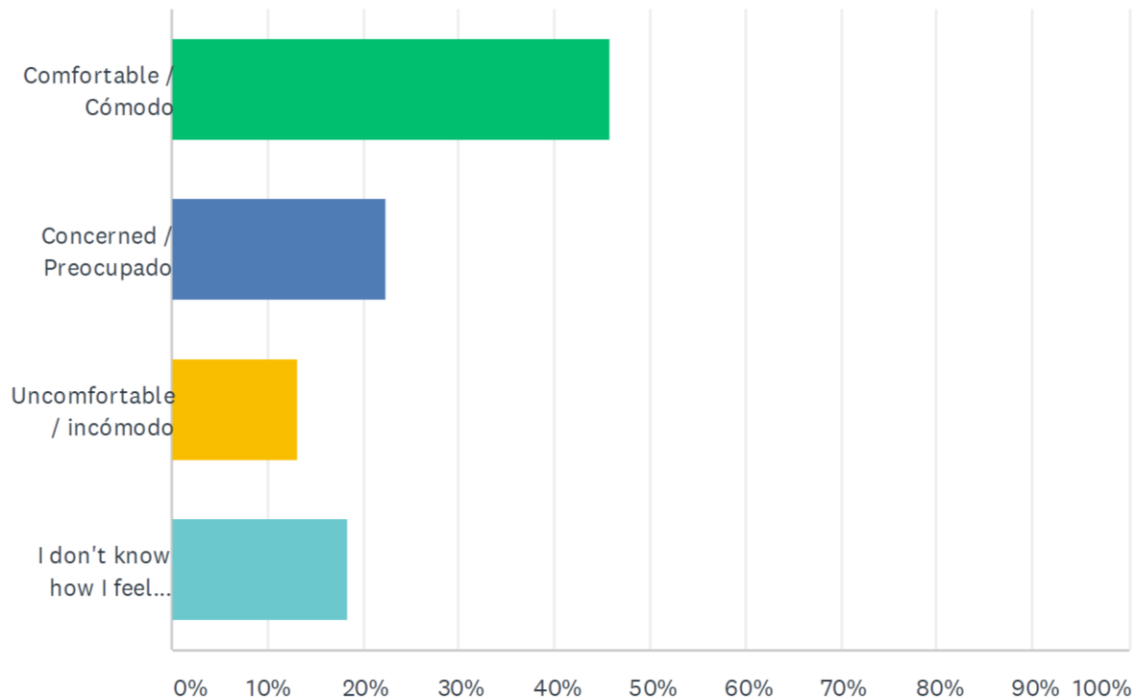
It's inevitable, children need to return to school - safely as possible.

## Plan "B" -- *Rotating Schedule*

**How would you feel if SCS needed to temporarily switch to an Alternative Schedule ?**

*Minimum days or rotating groups of students coming to school on different days.*

Answered: 98 Skipped: 0



**45 Comfortable**

**22 Concerned**

**13 Uncomfortable**

**18 I don't know how I feel about this right now.**

## Plan "B" Comments -- *Rotating Schedule*

Although an alternating schedule of different students would decrease the numbers of children each student is exposed to on a daily basis, community transmission is still a concern. Alternate scheduling reduces but does not eliminate the potential.

Alternative schooling would make it more difficult for us as parents in adjusting our work schedules to fit his but we would be willing to do so if it came to it.

We are concerned because we are in a household where both parents work. How soon would parents be notified about a change in schedule.

Childcare is our #1 issue with this plan. It would also have a very disconnected feel.

Childcare issues -- would have to ask my boss if I can work from home .

I'm not sure that I understand what this would mean.

I want my child to have as "normal" of a school experience as possible (kindergarten). Being social and playing with other students is very important for development and mental health and I Wouldn't want my daughter to miss out on that. She also has friends in the classroom and I wouldn't want them to be separated.

Like this plan, and may be AM and pM classes . Young kids can come in morning classes and older kids can in PM classes.

That's what I was hoping would be suggested. Distance learning with weekly check-ins at school in small groups once or twice a week, at least until they know more and have a vaccine.

Not ideal, but would prefer this to distance learning. The more consistent, the better!

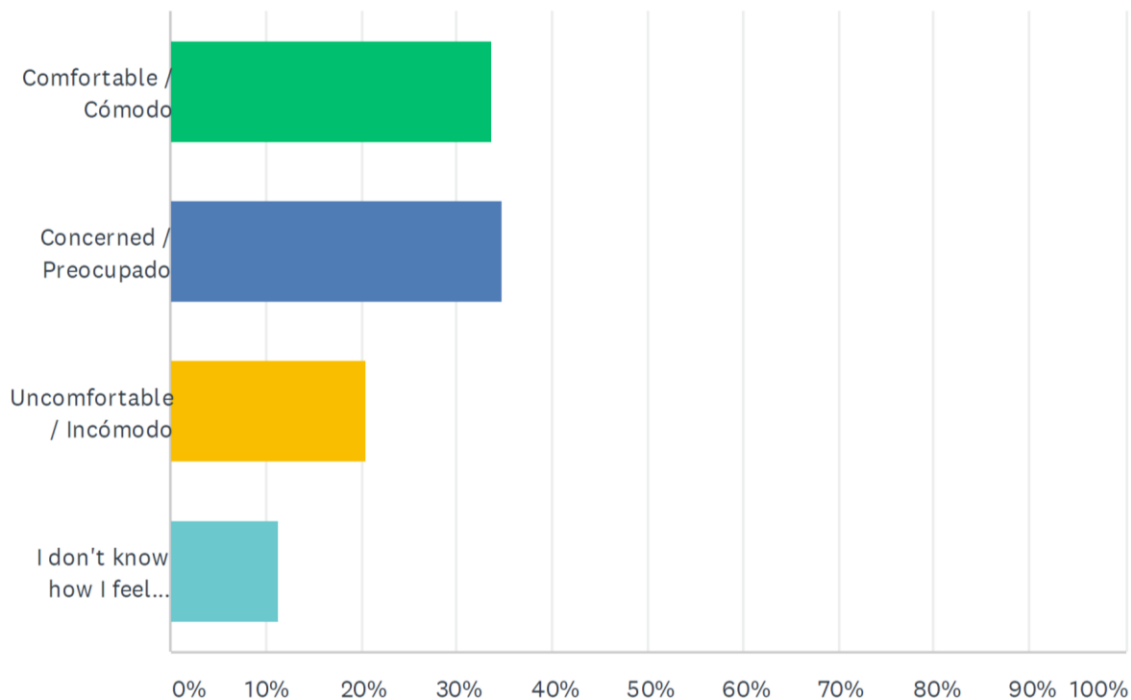
1/2 days would be really disruptive to not only my work but it seems like students' focus. Transportation time and then the readjusting to home environment (resetting up any school work, the inevitable mid-day lunch/snack, picking up work project- I feel like the day would get away and the last thing I want is for us to all to be on a device and computer into the evening. Alternative seems better as we can all get a good day of focus in no matter where we are.

Childcare is a huge issue for so many families. Will you be supporting aftercare?

## Plan "C" -- *Distance Learning from Home*

**How would you feel if SCS needed to temporarily switch to Distance Learning?** (students receive digital instruction at home)

Answered: 98 Skipped: 0



**33 Comfortable**

**34 Concerned**

**20 Uncomfortable**

**11 I don't know how I feel about this right now.**

## Plan "C" Comments -- *Distance Learning from Home*

It is not an adequate education for my young child. We all must sacrifice, of course, I just feel that it is not working for my young child.

My son doesn't learn from computers. He NEEDS people.

I think a big part of learning for young kids is the social part and distance learning would be missing that huge piece. And she loves interacting with kids and teachers and is not as excited or engaged via the computer.

Distance learning is, at best, a stop-gap to keep the children engaged through this period. Our children have special needs (one diagnosed, one not diagnosed) and don't do well at schooling at home.

Distance Learning would make it very difficult for us to be home with him and assist him.

Again, we're a two working parent household, how soon would we know about the distant learning switch. Would the school give each household the tools to successfully teach their children.

I am doing this now and am facing moderate concerns and changes in my sons behaviors, attitude and demeanor as he struggles to hold enthusiasm for learning and his education which is something I've never seen in my son before as I've mentioned he is a very outgoing boy and its breaking my heart. I already still have to work so I can't be physically with him all day during the day. We are trying our best to keep him encouraged and entertained though this has definitely been a challenge. He is getting homework done and still reading but the enthusiasm and excitement is definitely lacking and that is utterly soul crushing. I'm sure many parents can say the same during this time.

I'm not crazy about the idea of kindergarteners doing work at home on the computer. The socialization is what they need!

I like the distance learning in the short term. It does not, however, meet the needs of the students in terms of learning and socialization, which is the whole point of school.

## SCS Site Map 2020-21

