

## Report of the Superintendent to the School Board

### **ACTION ITEM**

#### **Subject: Consideration of Parameters for Regular Joplin High School Schedule**

##### **A. Pertinent Facts:**

On July 30, 2020, the Board approved the Joplin Reentry plan which included an A/B every other school day schedule for grades 9-12.

The reentry plan will be continually monitored and adjusted as COVID-related data and local realities evolve.

A board member has requested that a quantifiable metric be established as soon as possible by which the High School hybrid schedule would convert back to a fully in person, 5 days a week traditional schedule.

Furthermore, the suggested metric for full return at the high school was presented to administration as follows:

After the first three weeks of school, beginning September 14, 2020, if daily (*Total Active?*) positive cases remain below 1% of total building population for 14 consecutive days, students should return to in-person learning. This is excluding students that opted for 100% virtual learning at the beginning of the year as they have committed to this learning plan for the first semester. If an uptick starts after returning all students to in-person learning, the District will have the options to return to a partial in-person learning or 100% remote if necessary.

##### **B. Alignment:**

Goal #1 - Student Readiness

Goal #2 - Learner Support

Goal #3 - Effective and Efficient

##### **C. Data:**

Active cases in Jasper County, Newton County and City of Joplin as reported on August 19, 2020 were:

Jasper 110

Newton 148

City of Joplin 77

Joplin area hospitalizations were 30 with a combined capacity of 55-60.

Joplin High School combined total population (Students and Staff) as of August 19 was 2030

High School total active positives were: 1

Total High School Quarantines were: 7

The first day of school is August 24, 2020.

More current data for August 25, 2020 will be presented at the Board meeting.

Sept 22, 2020 is the next Board meeting. If the Board approves the timeline and metrics as presented above *and* positive cases have remained within the metrics established as presented above, this meeting will take place within the final week of tracking for return.

##### **D. Stakeholder Voice:**

Administration has invited a representative from the Joplin City Health Department to present relevant data and answer questions from the Board.

**E. Fiscal Note:**

No additional fiscal note is anticipated

**F. Recommendation:**

The administration recommends that the Board of Education consider the full import of this request alongside inclusion of the overall Joplin School District and Joplin area trends, the determination of an adequate timeline, as well as acceptable local hospital capacity to treat the potential uptick in COVID cases when the A/B schedule is merged.

Administration also recommends that if a quantifiable metric is adopted for a less restrictive plan, there also be considered a metric for moving back to a hybrid or fully virtual format should there be an uptick in positive cases.

Finally, due to the complexity of this issue, if the Board feels it needs more time, administration is open to the option of scheduling a board work session in the near future before a vote is taken.

**Prepared by:** Dr. Melinda Moss, Superintendent *MM*  
**Reviewed by:** Sarah Mwangi, Assistant Superintendent *SM*  
Kerry Sachetta, Assistant Superintendent *KS*  
**Meeting Date:** August 25, 2020