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Milestones Virtual Town Hall Meeting July 28th 2:00-3:00 PM

Goal: Representatives from our Task force shared that our intention for town hall meetings is to encourage active communication between our Milestones task force and parents/guardians from across grade levels to answer families' questions about our reentry processes and protocols and to elicit feedback. Family participants included both parents/guardians whose students are participating onsite this summer as well as those who are participating remotely. We are pleased to share that our transition to onsite instruction has been very successful and smooth thus far!

Shout-Outs:

1. **Task Force:** We offered significant gratitude to the tremendous dedication, creativity and diligent work ethic of our Milestones task force. They have embraced this responsibility with enthusiasm on top of their full time positions at Milestones in order to best support our school's safe reentry back to onsite instruction in a manner that thoughtfully incorporates the needs of both our onsite and remote learners. It is truly a comprehensive team effort, and as a result, Milestones is extensively prepared.
2. **Students and Parents/Guardians:** We also offered appreciation to our students and families who adapted with such great flexibility throughout this spring to the very sudden and dramatic change to remote instruction caused by the pandemic. Our entire community has come together to support one another and we are grateful and inspired by this.

Agenda:

- **Slide Show:** The group walked through a brief slideshow to provide a window into our present building set-up, which is designed to support health and safety. This helped families to visualize our reentry back to school.
- **Highlights and Questions:** We then reviewed the highlights described below regarding our reentry planning and answered questions from parents and guardians that were submitted prior to the meeting and that were asked during the meeting.

Milestones Task Force Participants:

<u>Team Member</u>	<u>Role/Responsibility</u>
Kim Rockers - CEO, Selected Member of Maaps Reentry Task Force, Completed COVID-19 Safety Management Certification Course	Meeting Facilitator; Represent information from maaps Re-Entry Task Force and DESE; Oversee school-wide communication
Alex Smith Michaels - Founder/COO who supervises clinicians, Board of Directors President	Board of Directors Representative; Act as Liaison with Clinicians
Deb Abbott - CFO	Oversee financial approvals
Kirsten Esposito Balboni - Principal	Co-Lead Academic and IEP related Planning
Gillian Warwick - Special Education Administrator	Co-Lead Academic and IEP related Planning
Lyn Ross - School Nurse, Member of Maaps Nursing group and follows the National Association of School Nurses, appointed COVID response leader for Milestones, and completed COVID-19 Safety Management Certification Course	Lead Medical Health related Planning; Represent information from maaps Nursing Task Force; Act as Liaison with DPH, Waltham Board of Health and Consulting Physician
Shane Mayhew - School Operations Manager	Oversee facilities management planning; Oversee social distancing/safety protocols
Heather Miller - Human Resources	Oversee HR-related planning; Research and represent employee wellness activities
Amanda Leibowitz - School Psychologist	Advocate/Consultant for mental health supports for students and staff
Heidi Warren - Project Manager and Senior Behavior Counselor	Oversee project management (completion of action items, communication among team members, research analysis and data collection); collaborates with School Operations Manager on facilities set-up and oversight
Sarah Folk - Head of Admissions *** As needed	Optional participant for contributing Leadership Insight and Planning for new students
Brittany Asselin - Executive Assistant	Collaboration on Developing Schedules, Administrative Support

Highlights of our first week of summer programming :

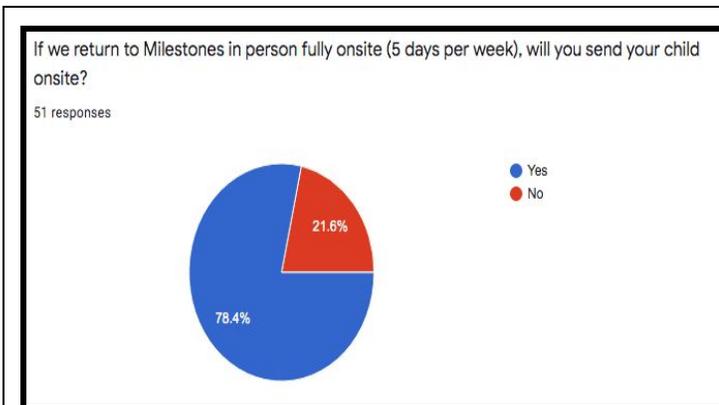
- Full staff participation
- 10 new students have joined us in July
- 69% of our students school wide are joining us onsite this summer, which is similar to other maaps schools' hybrid participation. Other students are participating in full remote summer instruction. Anticipated totals this summer include:
 - Elementary and Middle School: 75% onsite
 - High: 69% onsite
 - PHS: 33% onsite
- Positive staff and student attitudes
- Students were highly consistent with following expectations and new protocols
- High compliance of mask use
- Smooth bus drop off and pick up processes
- Excellent follow-through of parents/guardians completing necessary paperwork
- Smooth snack and lunch times/Parents have done a great job remembering to send in daily items
- Appreciation for parent/guardian donations of health and safety supplies

Lesson Learned from the first week:

- Refined our collection and filing system of electronic daily forms
- Adjusted bus dismissal time due to being faster than expected

Next Steps:

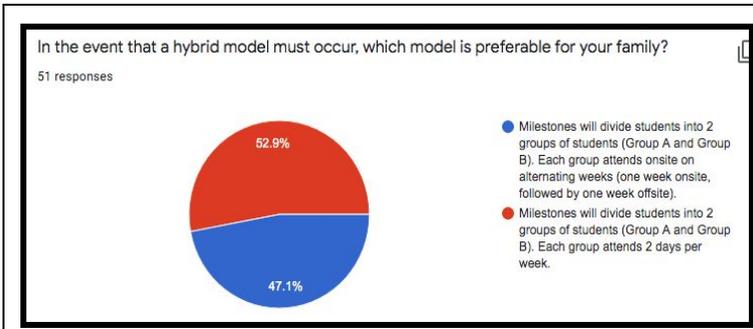
- Milestones' task force is continuing to meet regularly with a focus on fall planning.
- All Massachusetts guidelines will continue to be followed and any new information will be updated and re-issued to staff and families (as applicable).
- The August Town Hall will offer more information of the fall schedule as comprehensive plans are due to DESE by August 10th.
- Totals for the Parent Fall Survey (Table below):



Question Regarding 5 Days per week Model:

78.4% of parents responded that they would send their child back to Milestones if it were fully onsite 5 days a week.

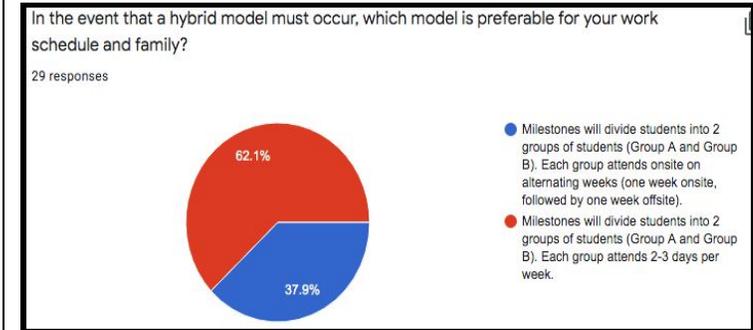
21.6% of parents responded that they would **NOT** send their child back to Milestones if it were fully onsite 5 days a week.



Families' Preference for a Hybrid model:

47.1% Preferred that each grouping attend onsite alternating weeks.

52.9% Preferred that each grouping attends two days per week.



Staff Perspective on a Hybrid model:

37.9% Preferred that each grouping attend onsite alternating weeks.

62.1% Preferred that each grouping attends two days per week.

Parents' Questions:	Answers:
<p>Given the sensory issues our kids have, what strategies will we take to keep face masks on?</p>	<p>Our staff will work with each student who is experiencing trouble with their masks. Lyn (school nurse) and clinicians may make recommendations to case managers/ families in the event that they think another form of face covering would be more beneficial for the student. Face shields are shown to be good alternative options for students experiencing more difficulty with a normal face mask. Face Shields can be purchased at Ace Hardware, Ocean State Job Lot, and Amazon. Staff are happy to assist with the fitting of the face shield. To encourage mask use, all students are receiving positive feedback for participating safely and responsibly though mask use, and classes are encouraged to take safe mask breaks to support the tolerance of masks.</p>
<p>What is the procedure regarding students who can't wear masks?</p>	<p>According to DESE, all individuals, including employees, students, visitors, and vendors, are required to wear face coverings while in the School or performing work on behalf of the School, except where wearing a face covering is unsafe due to a medical condition, disability impact, other health or safety consideration, or reason permissible under state guidance applicable to schools. Students who are unable</p>

	to wear face coverings due to medical condition, disability, or other health or safety considerations may wear face shields where it would not otherwise be unsafe to do so due to a medical condition, disability impact, or other health or safety consideration. Staff are asked to maximize 6 + feet of distance and have PPE available, in any circumstance when mask use may not occur.
What happens to students who can't wear masks?	Currently we have only experienced a couple of students who have chosen not to wear a face mask, but our staff have done a great job listening to students' concerns and assisting. We have seen increased participation in our second week already! Onsite instruction opportunities may not be denied, however, as DESE acknowledges that students with developmental, behavioral, health, or sensory challenges are often among the highest need populations.
What happens on the van?	The public district is in charge of coordinating the transportation and dictating the guidelines for the van. If parents/guardians have questions about transportation, you may contact your district liaison. DESE has provided specific transportation guidance to districts.
Do you have access to the SMILE clear masks?	We have looked into these masks but they are on backorder. A parent offered a possible connection to this company and can try to get us in with them.
How do you handle the political conversation that has come up in this climate?	We have been able to redirect these conversations and process with students. You can also redirect students back to our core values of safety, respect, responsibility.
Why do you think the PHS onsite attendance is so low (relative to the other grade ranges)?	The PHS cohort is a smaller cohort so the % onsite is reflective of that smaller number. The PHS team has strong remote participation and programming. Throughout Milestones, students who are participating remotely may change in the future to join us onsite if that becomes a comfortable option for families (note: DESE acknowledges that there may need to be a reasonable transition period to arrange transportation and classroom set-up).
What is happening with testing for students and how will that work for remote students?	Our special education administrator is working with families and districts who are due for testing (re-evaluation) to determine appropriate next steps (timelines, evaluations to be

	<p>conducted, and approach to ensure validity). We will be able to speak to individual circumstances as they arise. A significant amount of collaboration and communication is critical between all parties. This past spring, there were mutually agreed upon postponements. As a result, this fall there are many IEP meetings to be scheduled and testing completed. Testing will resume for students when they are onsite. There is active discussion at the state level and among clinicians about the reliability and validity of elements of testing when it is not able to be conducted onsite. As we learn more, we will continue to share. Please know our administrator is in constant communication with your child's district.</p>
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[Next Town Hall is Scheduled for Tuesday August 11th 2:00-3:00 \(This will include previewing for fall scheduling\).](#)

- To participate, families may RSVP to: rsvp@advancingmilestones.com