

REMEMBER
WHY YOU
STARTED



Deep Breaths

By:

kb

Friday, May 7th, 2021

Friday Recap

Darcy

00:00

Opened the call with Deep breaths and discussed remote learning platforms and provided a summary of the ideas being tossed around and debated in the field on the continuum of options for providing remote learning in the future. . .

- IDPH/ISBE issued a new Exclusion Chart - not much has changed.
- Biggest question in the field right now is what remote learning will look like next school year and whether ISBE will put mandates for remote learning in-place.
- There is a wide continuum of options being considered in the field – from offering no remote learning at all to offering students total remote learning on a permanent basis.
- We are waiting for more guidance on this, but right now, prepare by identifying what option best meets your local needs.

Kevin

21:00

Discussed HB 577. . .

- Proposed amendment to Ann Marie's law (suicide prevention).
- Creates a list of students who are considered more at-risk for suicide, which must be incorporated into the district's suicide prevention policy.
- Likely to pass and take effect July 1, 2022.

Elizabeth

28:00

Discussed making the COVID-19 mandatory for school attendance. . .

- There is long standing precedent for making vaccines mandatory for kids to attend school, so there is legal support for a COVID-19 vaccine someday becoming mandatory.
- Three main obstacles right now to mandating the COVID-19 vaccine: (1) There currently is no vaccine approved for all school-age kids; (2) All currently available COVID-19 vaccines are still operating under Emergency Use Authorization; and (3) Politics.
- If it does become mandatory, not likely something we will see by August 2021.

Rob

40:00

Discussed a new Title IX sexual harassment decision by the 7th Circuit. . .

- Facts of the case - Junior high students were name-calling, body-shaming, and sharing inappropriate photos of a fellow student online, leading the parents of the victim to file a Title IX claim against the district.
- This was a "student on student harassment" case, so to determine whether the school should be held liable for the conduct, the court looked at whether the school was deliberately indifferent to the conduct.
- The 7th Circuit determined the district was not liable, even though the student experienced real harm, citing the following "good things" the school did to respond to the conduct:

- (CONT) The school - (1) met with the victim's family a lot to try and put safeguards in-place; (2) sent school-wide reminder emails reminding everyone of appropriate/inappropriate conduct and behavior towards fellow students; (3) disciplined the student harasser, and (4) required the student harasser to send an apology letter to the victim.
- Key takeaway = Take steps to show consistent and sustained effort to respond to complaints. Do not choose to do nothing, even if it appears there is little the school can do to stop the behavior.

Shane

50:00

Discussed a recent bus hijacking incident and reminded schools to take time to evaluate their emergency response strategies. . .

- Yesterday, an elementary school bus was hijacked by an individual in military garb carrying a rifle. Fortunately, no one was hurt. No accident occurred. Everyone is okay, but it was scary and alarming for all to see.
- Press release issued by the district was impressive and it created a sense of calm for the community by highlighted the district's preparation for handling these types of incidents and its readiness to respond to them effectively.
- Take away for people on the call - take a minute to think about what your response would be if something like this happened at your school. Collaborate with your school and community stakeholders to create response plans and public statements that show your emergency preparedness.

See you next week.
On Friday, May 14th.
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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