Brent Elementary – DCPS Reopening Walkthrough

Friday, October 30, 2020 at 4:00 pm

I. In Attendance

Brent Staff Members

• Norah Lycknell (School Principal and CSO Representative)
• Denise Diggs (Operations Lead and CSO Representative)
• Cati Bisanz (WTU Building Representative)
• LaQuontinesha Atchison (AFSCME Representative)
• Sarah Werstuik (LSAT Co-Chair)
• Chloe Patterson (SCAC / PTA Representative)
• Jason Lawrence (Custodial Foreman and Teamsters Representative)
• JyongKyung Lee (School Nurse)

Parent Leadership Group Representatives

• Tara Goldenberg (PTA)
• Jean Blackerby Strich (LSAT)
• Justin Brindger (SIT)

II. Introduction

Principal Lycknell explained that the reopening tour was mandated by DCPS and WTU and the goal was to assess Brent’s readiness for reopening according to a checklist and attendees’ own assessments. Space usage may change as reopening plans change. Following the tour, attendees signed the checklist acknowledging their participation.

III. Highlights of the Tour

Morning Procedures / Health Checks

• There are likely to be staggered arrival times.
• Morning arrival will use front and back entrances; students will either line up by class or one by one, depending on the number of students.
• DCPS is hiring two health aides for Brent to do health checks at morning arrival (staff and students). Health aides will arrive early every day (6am).

• Health check will involve taking temperature and “ask, ask, look” protocol with questions about health and travel. Hand sanitizer at entry.

• Anyone with symptoms at morning check-in will be sent home (if possible) or to the isolation room. Return to school will require a negative test, doctor’s note or 14 days.

• An isolation room is set up on the first floor in an ECE classroom, with outside egress. (See Pic. 1)

• All families who have students returning to school in person will participate in an orientation in advance and sign a Brent-specific agreement.

Common Areas

• Floors are marked with social distancing signs and arrows to indicate one-way traffic flow. (See Pic. 2)

• There will never be two lines of students in the hallway at the same time (no passing).

• Only 3 people are allowed in the office; no visitors allowed in school.

• Any contractors for repairs, etc. will only be at the school when no students are present.

• Principal Lycknell does not know if Brent will continue to be a meal site.

• Ms. Bettina is in the office working on tech support and library. There is an external window for exchange of devices if needed. Brent has adequate numbers of laptops (students who return still need laptops).

• Certain bathrooms are designated for adults only, bathroom breaks are scheduled, and each floor has an emergency bathroom for use outside of bathroom break times.

• Classes will have scheduled bathrooms breaks. There are also single-use bathrooms reserved for emergencies. All bathroom will have a posted cleaning schedule. (See Pic. 3)

• There are plexiglass dividers between sinks. Paper towels instead of hand dryers.

• Students will have the option to take grab-and-go breakfast and water bottle at the entry table. DCPS is obtaining touchless water coolers in a month.

• Lunch will take place in classrooms at students’ desks.

• Nurse Lee will be on site full-time, working in her office, not in the isolation room.

• The isolation room will be staffed by DCPS health aide. It is in an ECE classroom and has 12 stations. Rapid testing will be used in the isolation room, but students will require a regular (not rapid) negative test to return to school after testing positive.
• Isolation room is for students and adults who may have COVID; Nurse Lee will handle other illnesses and injuries.

• DCPS students and teachers will be prioritized at DC testing sites.

• Brent has a huge supply of masks and PPE, and cleaning kits provided to each classroom.

• Custodians will clean each room every day, but will not enter classrooms when students are in them. Cleanings are scheduled during recess.

• Two classes will be outdoors at recess at a time, with separate zoned play areas.

• Demountables will not be used for students, only for recess storage and faculty lounge.

• Recess equipment will be sprayed down with disinfectant every night.

• Brent playground will be closed to people other than students and staff during school day.

• There will be three tents outside for outdoor classes with time in the tents to be scheduled.

Classrooms

• The tour visited a K classroom on the first floor, with ten desks at least 6 feet apart. The tour also visited an ECE classroom on the first floor. (See Pic. 4)

• Centers will be limited; teachers are devising ways to have mobile centers.

• Bathrooms in ECE/K classrooms will now have doors rather than curtains.

• The tour also visited classrooms on the second and third floors.

• A maximum of 12 people can be in the K room at any time; the classrooms on the second and third floors will have a maximum of 11 people. Signs have been added to all rooms indicating purpose and capacity limits (See Pic. 5)

• Most carpets are being removed, as well as wall hangings. Bulletin boards with fabric hangings are easier to clean.

• Teachers now have kidney-shaped desks for spacing.

• All hard surfaces will be disinfected each day. Shared responsibility between teachers and custodial team.

• Each classroom has a HEPA filter with UV light inside. These devices are very quiet. They turn over the air in a classroom 5-7 times per hour. All DCPS schools will be using these. (See Pic. 6)

• Filters on the HEPA devices will be changed every 2-3 months, but can go up to 6 months.

• Windows are not opened when HEPA devices are in use, because that would increase the amount of air to be filtered. Windows may be opened on second and third floors (where air is recirculating rather than being pulled from outside), pending DCPS guidance.
- Attendees reviewed an HVAC report specific to Brent.
- Plumbing has been flushed and checked in last week of October.
- Each class will have a dedicated coverage person to step in if needed (no overlap between coverage people, so no mixing of cohorts).
Pic. 5

BRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ROOM 308
FIFTH GRADE
CLASSROOM
MAXIMUM CAPACITY:
2 ADULTS
8 STUDENTS

Pic. 6