

August 5, 2021

## Highlights

### Board Approves 2021-2022 Health & Safety Plan

The Rose Tree Media Board of School Directors approved the district's 2021-2022 [Health and Safety Plan](#) at a Special Legislative Meeting on August 5. After a Committee Meeting and a period of robust public comment, including hundreds of emails received prior to the meeting, the Board amended and then passed the plan on a vote of 8 to 1.

The district's plan reflects recommendations for the 2021-2022 school year, including layered mitigation strategies based on community incidence rates and a full return to in-person learning for all students beginning August 30.

The plan includes the following provisions:

- **Distancing:** In accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, schools will maintain 3 feet of physical distancing wherever possible.
- **Masking:** All K-6 students will be required to wear masks, until vaccinations are available. (The School Board will meet by December to review the status of availability for vaccination for this age group, as well as community transmission levels.) Masking for students in grades 7-12 will be required when community spread in Delaware County is "substantial" or higher, which the CDC defines as average daily COVID-19 cases of 50 or more per 100,000 over a 7-day period. Per a federal order, masks will be required on school buses regardless of age or vaccination status.
- **Hand washing & respiratory etiquette:** The district will encourage regular hand washing, provide hand sanitizer in strategic locations, and post signage about proper respiratory etiquette.
- **Disinfecting:** The district will use disinfectants approved by the EPA for use against COVID-19. There will be routine cleaning of our buildings, classrooms, common areas, and office spaces. If there is a case of COVID-19, cleaning and disinfecting of the area will take place.
- **Contact tracing/isolation/quarantine:** The district will engage in contact tracing, along with isolation and quarantine protocols, in collaboration with the PA Health Department.
- **Screening:** The district requires staff and contractors to self-screen prior to reporting to work, programs, and schools, and to stay at home if experiencing any symptoms.
- **Public reporting:** The district will implement a COVID-19 tracker on its website.
- **Visitors:** No in-school visitors will be allowed when community spread is "substantial" or higher. School visitors must be masked regardless of vaccination status according to the masking policy in place at the school they are visiting.

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The Rose Tree Media Board of School Directors held a Committee Meeting and a Special Legislative Meeting on August 5, 2021

*Next Committee Meeting:*

September 14, 2021

*Next Legislative Meeting:*

August 26, 2021

### Board of Education Members

Susan Henderson-Utis  
*President*

Theresa Napson-Williams  
*Vice President*

Hillary Fletcher

Jackie Gusic

Shelley Hunt

Robert Kelly

Susan Layne

Jim Morrison

Kelly Schaffer

### Student Board Representatives

Ava Finnegan

Mckenzie Grant

### Superintendent

Dr. Eleanor DiMarino-Linnen

*More information available at*  
[www.rtmsd.org/administration/board](http://www.rtmsd.org/administration/board)

## **Health and Safety Plan (continued)**

The district will continue to consider any additional recommendations from the Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Health for additional mitigation strategies as these recommendations change and become available.

“We are all united in wanting our children to be healthy and safe while also balancing the educational, social, and emotional needs of our students—even if we differ in how that balance should be achieved,” said Dr. Eleanor DiMarino-Linnen, Superintendent. “Conflicting guidance, studies, recommendations, and opinions make it even more difficult to reach consensus. At the end of the day, we are going to come together and be RTM again.”

## **Edward Roth, Jr. to Serve as Penncrest Principal**

At its Legislative Meeting on August 5, the Rose Tree Media Board of School Directors approved the appointment of Edward Roth, Jr. as the next principal of Penncrest High School.

Mr. Roth has focused his career on achieving academic growth for students using a high-energy and inclusive approach to school leadership and communication. He previously served as principal at Norristown Area High School and at Upper Darby High School. He received a master’s degree in educational leadership from St. Joseph’s University and a bachelor’s degree in secondary education from Temple University. He is currently a doctoral candidate at Temple University.

For more information about Mr. Roth, please read [this news item](#).

*More information available at*  
**[www.rtmsd.org/administration/board](http://www.rtmsd.org/administration/board)**