1. **Question:** Besides access to school counselors what proactive steps is PWCS taking to address student mental health? How does this differ per grade level? I am concerned for students during this time of transition. (Jackson)

**Answer:** The Office of Student Services (OSS) has developed a needs assessment survey to send out to each parent to assess the needs of our students. Parents/guardians are providing information about their student(s) that will allow us to provide direct instruction/and or resources as needed.

1. OSS has made a Division-wide survey for parents/guardians to be delivered during the first few weeks of school.
2. The survey allows parents/guardians to answer questions about their student’s emotional needs so we can plan to support them.
3. This survey is optional, but allows us to respond to those parents/guardians who have concerns about their children.
4. Once the survey closes, OSS will provide a list to each school with respondent information for the students in their school.

In addition to the needs assessments that our school counselors conduct at the start of the school year, the Division is planning to administer the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) survey during the second semester. The data from this survey will allow the School Division to collaborate with local community service agencies to better meet the needs of the youth of PWC through both school and community programs. The YRBSS monitors six categories of health-related behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death and disability among youth and adults, including:

- Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence;
- Sexual behaviors related to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection;
- Alcohol and other drug use;
- Tobacco use;
- Unhealthy dietary behaviors; and
- Inadequate physical activity.
OSS is exploring the possibility of adding a “request to see the counselor” button in Canvas so that students at all levels can access a counselor at any time.

Our team in OSS has provided lessons and resources to teachers that are varied by grade level to support our students.

In order to support our parent community, OSS has kept the website updated with resources. Below is a link to the resources we have available on our webpage for parents.

**Link to parent resources:**
https://www.pwcs.edu/departments/student_services/when_your_student_needs_assistance

2. **Question:** What resources can we provide parents to help students adjust to digital learning? Can we make it clear to parents where to reach out for specific concerns? (Jackson)

**Answer:** This topic was addressed in an August 26 Board communication and the Q&A responses to Board Questions.

Additionally, the Office of Special Education has conducted drive-thru pickups of manipulatives and resources for parents/guardians to use with their students during virtual instruction. As part of our IEP meeting process we have provided parents/guardians with a resource packet and case managers will continue to reach out to parents/guardians to provide support and assistance.

At the school level, many efforts are underway to ensure that parents/guardians have support as we navigate this new learning environment. Staff members have not only provided device distribution but have conducted support sessions via phone or in-person to assist parents/guardians in understanding how to navigate Canvas and the virtual environment. Division-wide support sessions and school level support sessions have been offered and will continue to be provided.

**Examples of current practices in place at the school level:**
1. Schools have created their own Helpdesk through a Helpdesk email.
2. School created videos are available on a variety of topics.
3. Weekly emails/newsletters are sent to parents/guardians.
4. Targeted contact lists are developed to help channel parents/guardians to the correct staff member for assistance.
5. Tech Tips or FAQ links are provided on website.
6. ITC support is provided.
7. Virtual Technology Cafes take place.

To ensure parents know who to contact for assistance, PWCS staff have received guidance and reminders on including specific information in announcements and messages to parents. Our school offices and central offices will continue to provide support for parents/guardians.

SPL met three times with the Return to New Learning Parent Task Force which included representatives from each of the Division advisory councils. These representatives had a chance to hear information on Return to Learning plans, resources, and technology as well as provide valuable feedback to the Division on these plans and the needs of families.

We also offered a course for employees who are parents/guardians with school-age children entitled “Tackling Virtual Learning While Working from Home.”
   • 81 employees/parents/guardians completed this course.

3. **Question:** Can we have access to a spreadsheet/data.
   a. lists how many students are coming back for face-to-face instruction per school, currently
   b. outlines how many students plan to return to face-to-face instruction per school in November.
   c. outlines Broadband and Connectivity issues per school?
   d. Staffing coverage for 50/50 learning (feasibility question) (Jackson)

**Answer:** Unfortunately, no such spreadsheet data exists. We are not tasking principals with doing so, as they are focused on meeting the needs of their schools at this time. However, at the July 8 School Board meeting, our “Initial Parent/Family Survey Report” was presented and indicated that 79.7% of parents/guardians were planning to send their children to school in Phase III. New, updated information on expected in-person vs. virtual
student plans for November will be shared in an upcoming School Board communication.

4. **Question:** Please elaborate on PWCS planned protocol for updating the School Board with conversations with the Health Department? Will it be weekly after each meeting or when data changes? What steps will we take as a School Division to be transparent, while following FERPA/HIPPA guidelines? (Jackson)

**Answer:** Please see August 26 Confidential Update question 12. It notes that Student Services will provide the School Board with updates.

A PDF that contains information on local COVID-19 data and the dashboard created in partnership with the Office of Accountability is being utilized to inform the Board. The School Board is now receiving a copy of this PDF weekly, along with current information provided from our team meeting with the Prince William Health District (PWHD) and the dashboard they use to monitor community health. These updates are planned to occur within 24 hours of the weekly meeting with the PWHD. *Note, meetings are usually held on Monday; however, due to schedule conflicts they may be adjusted to meet the needs of the PWHD and school team.*

5. **Question:** Do we have a pool of substitutes prepared and trained for in-person and virtual learning? (Jackson)

**Answer:** Efforts are ongoing. See FAQ item under Employee Schedules and Telework.

6. **Question:** Do you have an update staff numbers of those who must come in besides special educators? (Jackson)

**Answer:** With the flexibility given to principals, the number varies. No compiled list exists, and we are not tasking principals with doing so, as they are focused on meeting the needs of their schools at this time.

7. **Question:** Are we collecting data on parental feedback for online learning to ensure that any county wide problems are addressed on a systemic level? If so, how and can we see this data? (Jackson)
**Answer:** The requested data is not being collected and we are not tasking principals and IT staff with doing so, as they are focused on meeting the needs of the schools at this time. However, issues reported to schools and/or the Kelly Leadership Center are addressed as needed.

8. **Question:** Reasking - Does that amount of PPE include related service personal (APE, OT, and HI) who go from school to school? I know PWCS has ordered masks and face shields for teachers, but I am concerned about those who do not have a “base location.” Where do these related service providers get their PPE? (Jackson)

**Answer:** Appropriate PPE has been secured and is available to all staff, as needed, regardless of their location. As described under Health/Counseling/Support Services tab of FAQs.

9. **Question:** Are we collecting data on teacher input regarding PPE or additional supports, specifically those who reported to the building? I know there was an anonymous tip line mentioned in the last set of questions- where is this tip line? (Jackson)

**Answer:** While not collecting data for a report, staff are in ongoing communications and the needed PPE is being provided. The Superintendent has visited with a number of teachers on his school visits during the first week of the new school year and every one of them has reported that they have the PPE they need. Anonymous input can be provided using the long-established anonymous Tip Line at: 703-791-2821, which is advertised on the PWCS website.

10. **Question:** What is the communication protocol, particularly leading up to November, regarding data within the school system (specific to how will you keep the Board up-to-date)? At what point, to ensure that principals have time to plan, will data be used to support the 50/50 call? Can we consider a “slow roll” in the beginning--- starting with k-3 or 5 and CTE students then rolling to middle/ high school shortly thereafter? (Jackson)

**Answer:** Staff is working to execute the Return to Learn plans adopted by the School Board on July 15, as summarized in its resolution of that date and reinforced by comments from the Chairman during the August 19 Special Board Meeting. The resolution establishes a goal of moving to the 50-50 live/virtual model at the start of the second quarter, unless safety conditions
preclude. Health guidance will continue to come from the CDC, the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Department of Education, the Governor, and the Prince William Health District. There has already been substantial communication on the Board’s decision from the School Division and the news media. Normal school and Division communications will reinforce schedules and processes as the second quarter approaches (emphasizing the continued commitment to safety). But nothing is currently planned that could incorrectly suggest that the Board’s decision is open to reconsideration (which would likely generate a flood of conflicting and confusing comments).

The only way to make any change to the approved plan would be for the School Board to overturn its previous decision. Nothing in the Board’s resolution anticipated a “slow-roll.” Adding this option now would require extensive new planning around scheduling, transportation, staffing, etc., which would distract staff from other needed activities. Additionally, as Board members have been informed, the current virtual school opening schedules were built around the 50% live model; consequently, altering plans to anything other than remaining fully virtual (except for the most vulnerable students) would potentially diminish the Division’s ability to efficiently provide instruction in the second quarter.

11. **Question:** Could I please get an update on our division’s efforts to expand SAT testing opportunities for September through November. In particular I would like to know where we are in our efforts to secure more testing dates and locations, especially for seniors who have been unable to secure a spot due to COVID-19 and are in a critical time frame of applying for merit scholarships from colleges and for early admission.

In answer to an earlier question, I was informed that we were looking to add an additional high school to our September offering. I also was informed that we were looking into adding an SAT School Day this fall at three high schools (eastern, central and western), which would be for Seniors, free of charge, including transportation. Could we please get an update on the division’s efforts in this regard? (Wall)

**Answer:** As reported to the Board on August 20, the College Board declined requests for additional sites for the August exam. The Office of Student Services continues to work with schools, and the College Board, which has the final say, to add new sites consistent with the plans detailed in the
August 26 response to Board questions. We are also seeking further clarification of the Governor’s COVID-19 restrictions limiting “gatherings” to fewer than 250 people. While no new sites/dates have been finalized, existing testing schedules can be found on the website previously shared in a Board communication on August 20: https://www.pwcs.edu/news/2019-0_news/s_a_t___a_c_t_upcoming_testing

12. **Question:** I’ve been looking through the FAQs, etc. for an answer to this question that came to me via social media: how are we handling the ability of students to print to a home printer from our school-issued devices? If they want to print, and they are having trouble with their laptop connecting to their printer, do we direct them to their IT school staff? Or would this be better handled from the PWCS IT support desk? Also, can we add instructions on how to connect to a printer safely? (Wall)

**Answer:** Due to the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), PWCS student devices are secured to prevent software/application downloading. We have encouraged teachers, where possible, to remain paperless in this virtual environment and to utilize Canvas and email for assignments to be submitted. If students do need to print, we suggest that they email the item to be printed to a family-owned device with direct printer access or contact their school to have the needed materials printed for them. We will add this information to available FAQs.

13. **Question:** Have you considered providing health aides for schools needing support personnel during the present face to face learning and future 50/50 plans. We have placed a huge burden on teachers and staff. Monitoring safety of our personnel in the field to include students has to be our number one priority. I send this to others because I made this request of your office some time ago. (Jessie)

**Answer:** The cost to add one additional health aid for each school for .75 year is approximately $1.1M if the added employees are temporary employees at $11.30 per hour. The Division currently does not have the funds available to support the hiring of an additional aid for each school. Hiring the additional staffing in such a short period of time would also provide challenges. The Division could consider this option at the point at which the Federal Government provides additional funding and the General Assembly finishes the work of the special session. Our school teams
have identified available existing staff to serve as support in clinics as needed and those staff members will receive proper PPE and training.

14. **Question:** Number of students receiving direct instruction by schools
15. **Question:** Number of special education students by school
16. **Question:** Number of all students by schools: there are rumors that these students are not receiving services.
17. **Question:** Number receiving services in Title I schools (Jessie)

**Answer:** For questions 14-17, there is no formal reporting of this information. We are not tasking principals with doing so, as they are focused on meeting the needs of their schools at this time.

18. **Question:** There are reports that many schools have single digit and/or zero participation: Please provide an explanation for this low participation rate. Has there been an investigation? (Jessie)

**Answer:** There are schools that have low or even zero participation rate for any or all eligible in-person learning at this time. This is due to the required IEP process and because, under the Board-adopted plan, parents/guardians can opt students out of in-person instruction in favor of virtual instruction. Principals have reported that some parents/guardians who initially communicated their desire for in-person services now say they’re just not ready yet. No investigation is needed.

19. **Question:** Number of COVID 19 cases and location. I first read about the case at Belmont in the paper. Maybe you alerted the board member in that district. However, a letter was sent staff members at Woodbridge High about a case and I was not made aware of it by members of the superintendent’s staff. ALL board members need to know when there are cases in schools. Parents and teachers hold us accountable (Jessie)

**Answer:** The two employee cases referenced at Woodbridge and Belmont were reported to the School Board on August 20 and September 4, respectively; both communications included the last date that the affected employee was in the building. Communications provides the Board with updates, as notified of new cases.