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AUHSD to host on-site vaccine clinics in the coming weeks

By *Sophie Braccini*

The Acalanes Union High School District is planning to start the 2021-22 school year this coming August with the same schedule as pre-pandemic. In order to do so safely and in anticipation of health authorities approving the Pfizer vaccine for teens 12 and up, the district will host two vaccination clinics on two campuses in May, open to all and in particular to students.

At the May 5 governing board meeting, Superintendent John Nickerson insisted that the schools would prefer all the students to be vaccinated. The day-long clinics will be on May 18 or May 25, or at the latest June 1. Families will receive directly detailed information on hours and exact location.

The superintendent noted that vaccination will be the best response to incidents such as a recent outbreak involving 21 students who tested positive for COVID-19 and the resulting quarantining of 100 students in the district. Nickerson confirmed that the cases were related to a party, not to hybrid on-site instruction, and that no spread on campuses was noted.

During that same governing board meeting, Aida Glimme, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services, said that families of incoming students had been asked to confirm their desire to have their students attend school in-person or remotely next school year. Within the four high schools that comprise the district, only 20 families indicated that they would prefer their student(s) to continue to study remotely. Glimme explained that this small number, spread among four different grades, was too small for the district to commit resources to such a program. She will contact each family individually to discuss with them how either the Acalanes Center for Independent Study (ACIS) or the standard campuses with additional staff support will provide an adequate solution.

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