

The Knox County Schools Community Task Force had one final public meeting to discuss options for reopening schools on Monday, June 29.

It was the second meeting and a follow-up to the initial meeting held on June 24 at the Sarah Simpson Professional Training Center.

In the first meeting members of the task force, which is chaired by Dr. Jerry Askew of Alliance for Better Nonprofits, mulled through data collected from an online community survey on the Knox County Schools website. The task force members were asked to come up with questions based on 150 pages of information. The survey had 30,000 participants.

The questions presented by members of the task force resulted in creating even more questions about reopening Knox County Schools, which were closed in March, in the midst of the spring semester.

"We were asked to react to and study the data," Askew



PHOTO BY KEN LAY

Knox County Schools Executive Director of Student Supports Jason Myers addresses the district's Community Task Force at a meeting in South Knoxville last week. He discussed a multitude of issues including how to serve students with disabilities and health protocols as the schools prepare to reopen in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Askew will present the task force's findings to the Knox County Board of Education at

Attendance will be limited due to physical distancing protocols. The meeting will, however, be

to reopen the district schools at the board's regular session meeting on July 15.

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Tuesday's City Council meeting, following an hour-long discussion on KUB's future, saw Mayor Indya Kincannon address her recent order requiring anyone in a city building to wear a mask.

The mayor noted that over the past two weeks cases of COVID-19 have doubled in the county and called that a "big uptick." The order applies to all city-owned or leased buildings and she said it applies not only to employees but anyone entering the buildings.

"I don't have the explicit authority but everyone one should wear a mask as a common courtesy," Kincannon said, adding, "I want to lead by example." The mayor added that anyone entering a city building without a mask will be given one to wear.

The order does not apply to children under 12 years old or people with a qualifying medical condition. She said the city would be putting signs up.

Later last week, Mayor Kincannon extended the mask order to all city buses and trolleys. If riders don't have one they will be given a mask.

She also said that a provider has