



ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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Mr Justin Gross, Superintendent
Cammy Leners, Business Manager/Board Secretary

July 27, 2020

Good morning I wanted to begin by thanking all of you who took the time to complete the Family/Parent Return to Learn Survey. Our administrative team spent last week reviewing and compiling the data into a summary that was shared with the board on Friday. The same summary is being sent as an attachment to you all as well. I wanted to discuss a couple of the most common themes that emerged from the survey feedback, but before I do I wanted to share with you guidance we received on July 17th from the Department of Education (DE) outlining their interpretation of Governor Reynolds latest proclamation that was also released on July 17th. I have included a brief portion of the guidance below:

“As detailed further below, many provisions affect a district or school’s authority to provide instruction through remote learning opportunities, such as online learning. Senate File 2310 requires that Return-to-Learn plans provide for in-person instruction and that in-person instruction is presumed. It requires the use of remote learning in certain circumstances and removes legal barriers to use in the 2020-21 school year. But it also prohibits schools from providing instruction primarily through remote learning opportunities without explicit authorization by the governor in a public health disaster emergency proclamation. Governor Reynolds today issued a proclamation authorizing the provision of instruction primarily through remote learning opportunities only if:

- *A parent or guardian voluntarily selects the remote learning opportunity; or*
- *The Department, in consultation with the Department of Public Health, approves of the temporary move to primarily remote learning for an entire building or district because of public health conditions; or*
- *The school, in consultation with state and local public health, determines that individual students or classrooms must temporarily move to primarily remote learning; or*
- *A school chooses to temporarily move to online learning because of severe weather instead of taking a snow day.*

Except as authorized in this proclamation, a district or school cannot move to entirely remote learning and it must provide at least half of its instruction to students in person.”

As you can see from the guidance above as a district we have to prepare for and offer onsite learning for our students and can only move to an online learning option for all of our students under the circumstances outlined above. The guidance also supports our recommendation to allow parents who choose to have their child(ren) attend virtually due to health concerns with that option and our ability as a district to provide that opportunity for those families.

You will remember that we had included in our Return to Learn Plan overview provided to the board a Hybrid option where we would only half 50% of our students onsite 4 days a week and one day a week all students would be engaged in online learning. Based on the DE guidance and Governor Reynolds

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proclamation that model wouldn't meet the guidance above stating that a district "must provide at least half of its instruction to students in person." We have since updated our plan with a hybrid model that meets this requirement. We are working to update our plans to meet the expectations laid out by the Governor and DE while also trying to be cognizant of the concerns and questions our parents and staff have raised and shared with us.

One key theme that arose from the survey is what will happen if/when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19? While we don't have explicit guidance on what will happen in each case, we do know that we will have to work with our local county department of public health to conduct contract tracing and determine who will need to be quarantined and for how long. We will need to be able to move between onsite and online learning should this happen for an individual student, a classroom, a building or our entire district. We are working with our staff to be able to provide the best educational experience possible regardless of what model we may find ourselves.

I want to thank those of you again who took the time to provide us with feedback on our return to learn plan. Like I stated before the school board was provided the same summary on Friday and will have had a chance to review your feedback before they approve our plan on Thursday at the board meeting.

[Parent/Family Survey Summary](#)

Sincerely,

Justin M. Gross
Superintendent

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