



To: NRSD Families and Faculty

From: Brooke Clenchy, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Todd Maguire, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Date: July 24, 2020

Re: Reopening Memo (3)

Dear Families and Faculty,

At our recent NRSD School Committee meeting our reopening plans were discussed and we provided updates on our multi-faceted efforts as we prepare for the new school year.

Our School Committee heard from Rob Frieswick - Director of Facilities, Lesa Gulbicki - NRSD Nurse Leader, Pat Marone - NRSD Business Manager, Ann Marie Stoica - Director of HR, Su Qi - Director of IT, Martina Kenyon - NRSD Curriculum Coordinator, and both of us as we laid out our work to date regarding reopening. We have scheduled another School Committee meeting for next week where the focus will be on Special Education, Extended Day, Athletics, realigning the school calendar and a discussion on the wearing of masks. The link to our most recent School Committee meeting is [here](#).

At the meeting we explained our rationale for beginning the school year with a hybrid model approach across the district. We, as an administrative team, believe that this is the best way to start back into the new school year. We see it as an opportunity to transition back into the new school year, just as the state has slowly phased an opening of the state with their efforts. We are uncomfortable with a full return, in part due to the restrictions and constraints prescribed by the guidelines. NRSD measured and mapped out everything necessary to orchestrate a full return, and it simply cannot work for us with the current guidelines in place. A hybrid model will allow us the necessary time for extensive and deep cleaning, feeding our children safely, will allow greater spacing than the recommended three foot mark, provide better flexibility for transitioning between classes, and transportation will be so much more efficient. We feel that we can implement this in a way that keeps safety at the forefront for students and staff.

We realize that our efforts to move into this model could change at the last minute prior to starting the school year, depending on a multitude of factors or an order by the Governor. We will continue to closely monitor the MA COVID trajectory. We are preparing to potentially move between the three learning models - full remote, hybrid, and full return - throughout the school year. We realize that we must be “nimble” with our efforts and ready to pivot at a moment’s notice.

When we left in March our teachers and students had been together for several months. Relationships had been established as a result of having spent time together on site, which is an essential component of the learning process. As we move into the new school year, we feel that developing those relationships is critical. In some grade groupings our students will be heading to a brand new building and we want them to gain a sense of comfort with their new home away from home, and that can only happen when students and staff are onsite.

Our staff are planning substantial changes to the remote component of our teaching and learning as we further explore synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities. In March we were given days to dramatically change our delivery of instruction. We have taken the time since then for deep reflection in this area, taken a look at the feedback and input we've received, and we continue to work at preparing a solid model as we move forward.

We have added a tab on the front page of our NRSD website where we are posting all appropriate documentation linked to reopening plans and DESE guidance documents. We have also posted our first of two FAQ sheets. We gathered questions received by our school committee members and have ensured that they have all been answered. We are in the process of preparing a second FAQ from questions received by our district Steering Committee. We have also posted the various committees working on reopening components, including names of the participants. We thank our teacher and parent volunteers for agreeing to work through the many details with us, we appreciate your time, efforts and support. You can find the tab [here](#).

We will host parent forums in upcoming weeks - the first will be next week - to respond to questions that may still be lingering that have not been covered on our FAQ sheets, or through our School Committee presentations. The links to these virtual meetings with dates and times can be accessed [here](#) for each town.

We will take questions ahead of time to ensure that we are able to respond to all questions as best as we possibly can. Please know that there are some questions we simply will not have answers to, in part due to anticipated state DESE guidance that is not yet released. It is also worth noting that answers to certain questions may change. This situation continues to remain fluid, answers may continue to change as new guidance is released. In some cases, answers may not be available. Please send all questions in advance to tmaquire@nrsd.net.

In August our building Principals, working with their site based task forces, will establish additional times to connect with their parent communities. You will receive direct communication from them as they work to stagger the various meeting times specific to their buildings.

We are in the process of developing a parent booklet containing salient information. We will distribute it in early August.

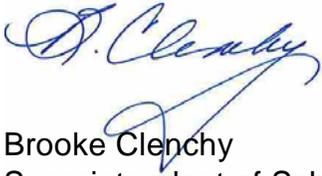
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Joan DeAngelis, Director of Pupil Personnel Services • Tania Rich, Director of Athletics
Patricia Marone, Business and Operations Manager

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We will continue to communicate regularly with you either from the Central Office or schools as our start date draws closer.

Yours in partnership,



Brooke Clenchy
Superintendent of Schools



Dr. Todd Maguire
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

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