



McDonald, Kelly <kmcdonald@dcrsd.org>

DCRSD Update 06.02.2020

Dudley-Charlton Regional School District <notifications@dcrsd.org>
To: Dudley-Charlton Regional School District <notifications@dcrsd.org>

Tue, Jun 2, 2020 at 3:46 PM

All,

I am writing to share some information that is important to you.

We know that the end of the school year is approaching but there are also many questions that continue. I hope to answer or share where we are on some of the unanswered questions below.

To start, I cannot express how important it is that all families and community members complete this year's 2020 Census to help support access to federal money for your schools, but also the local health care systems, local roads and other local programs to include public safety. Please take the time to complete the 2020 Census.

We know that your student may have personal belongings in our schools. We have a staff reentry plan that is being reviewed by our local health agents to permit the organization and eventual distribution of personal belongings. This will be a drive-up distribution process only. Parents and students will not be permitted in the school buildings. Details will be provided by school principals.

The last official day of school is Thursday, June 18, 2020. Our staff is working on plans for the last week to mark the end of the school year through fun, remote activities and the distinct possibility of reverse processions by each school on the 18th. We know this year was filled with a flurry of changes that impacted every family, every staff member, our communities, state and country. We can't thank each of you enough for the incredible commitment to each other and our remote learning program.

As a district we established a 21-member overarching Reopening Committee with local health agent representation. The committee has working groups in the following areas; *operations and resources, emotional health and safety, instruction, and communication/consultation*. Our goal is to develop plans and protocols for reentry to school once we receive approval and guidance to do so. Look for future Reopening Committee communications.

At this time, current reopening guidance rests in the hands of the CDC and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has not provided guidance on the reopening of public-school buildings for instructional programming or ongoing community access. The question asked the most and lacking defining information is if the schools will be open in the fall and what will they look like. After participating in a conference call with the commissioner this morning we were asked to plan for every possibility. This is full reentry, the continuation of remote learning and the possibility of a mixed approach to include partial reentry and remote learning. A word that was used today resonated with me and I must share with you. All provided guidance, including CDC uses the term "preferred" when addressing expectations for reentry/reopening. This is concerning as preferred may mean something different from family to family and school to school. We will pay close attention to the use of this term as we develop reentry plans here in the DCRSD.

As a district our annual directive is to develop a fiscal plan that meets the needs of our students and improves their experience while working with the towns to understand what local available revenues are in support of the district fiscal plan without compromising other community services. With the onset of COVID-19 we must remain flexible, vigilant and ready for differing messages from our state and federal governments. We will be thoughtful and aware of the impact of any decisions made moving forward and we will continue to

work with our School Committee and town leaders to prepare and present recommended courses of action as more information becomes available. We are balancing the added cost associated with reopening and the knowledge that revenues are limited. This will change the course of how we do things in Dudley-Charlton as doing it right is the only option.

Lastly, I am sure the unrest across our country from COVID-19 and now the protests have contributed to the pressures of schooling at home. Your best resource continues to be the teacher or principal of your student(s). We know that this has not been easy and the sunshine and warm weather compounds the lack of interest and motivation of students. As the community of educators reaching well beyond the school buildings, we believe you as parents have been remarkable teachers and know that the success of our district and your students these past several months and in the future is because of you. Thank you!

With respect,

Steven M. Lamarche

 **2020Census.pdf**
105K