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DCRSD Update 08.07.2020

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

Fri, Aug 7, 2020 at 9:13 AM

All,

I want to begin and apologize for a lengthy email as we continue to work on a reopening plan for the Dudley-Charlton RSD.

Last evening the Dudley-Charlton RSD School Committee voted to delay the start of the school year for students to Wednesday, September 16, 2020. This will not extend the school year as the Commissioner of Education provided this flexibility to school districts to support educators in preparations for the start of a very different school year. As of today, this is the only change to the school year 2020-2021 calendar.

Of note, the Dudley-Charlton School Committee did not vote on a reopening model to start the school year. In large part, this was due to the fact that community members are still without power and were unable to participate in the live meeting. The DCRSD School Committee will convene an emergency School Committee meeting this Monday at 6:00 PM to continue their deliberation and preparations for a vote for reopening schools this year.

In the distributed Reopening Plan, we identified two recommendations for consideration.

1. If we started the school year with hybrid learning as presented in the plan, we recommended an 8-week model as our starting point. This would provide stability in planning and four sessions per cohort. We would evaluate the progress and provide recommended steps for action. Action could be to further open in-person instruction, or a move to more remote learning.
2. If we start the school year with full remote learning we recommend a transition to hybrid learning for our high needs students as soon as feasible and for a reevaluation of all students return to hybrid learning within four weeks.

After reviewing the information provided by families in preparation for last night's School Committee meeting, we presented to the School Committee a blended plan of both recommendations as there was support for both. The blended plan presented last evening was;

As of August 5, 2020, the DCRSD Administration recommends a phased reopening for all students starting September 16, 2020. Our recommendation is to start with remote learning and transition to soft openings incrementally by cohort and grade.

- September 16, 2020, first day for all students in remote learning model with the exception of Cohort D, in-person
- October 5, 2020, first week for Cohort C in-person. Cohort A and B continue remote learning
- October 19, 2020, first hybrid week for Mason Road and Charlton Elementary Cohort A and B
- November 2, 2020, first hybrid week for Heritage School and Dudley Elementary Cohort A and B
- November 16, 2020, first hybrid week for all middle and high school students Cohort A and B

In addition, we have been provided direction to look at a full-day hybrid learning model, a Prek-6 full in-person learning and 7-12 remote learning model, and to drill down the number of families who will choose full remote learning if the recommendation is for any hybrid or full in-person learning.

Attached and for your review, you will find a copy of the question and answer document based on all previous questions by Dr. Ackerman our Assistant Superintendent.

Monday's 6:00 PM School Committee will be broadcast live on Vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/445519857> or <https://vimeo.com/dcrsd> and via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/99227987167>

We continue to appreciate your feedback as it provides direction for decision-making. Please complete the 08.07.2020 Family Survey and the Staff Survey so that we can provide the School Committee updated information. Only dcrsd.org URLs can access the staff survey.

Attached and for your review, you will find a copy of the question and answer document based on all previous questions by Dr. Ackerman our Assistant Superintendent. This was an arduous project that consolidated like questions. We may not have copied or answered your specific question and we know that questions will continue with recommendations,

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decisions or changes. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we prepare for the opening of the 2020-2021 school year.

Respectfully,

Steven M. Lamarche

Superintendent of Schools



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