

LACONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Administrative Unit Thirty

"Ensuring success with every student, every day, in every way"

Steve Tucker, Superintendent of Schools
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July 28, 2020

Good Day, Laconia School District Families.

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you are enjoying your summer. Our planning to open schools in the 2020-21 school year continues. I appreciate the feedback and the engagement of our school community as we work to develop an opening plan for schools. Our goal is to offer in-person education for our students in the 2020-21 school year.

As more information comes out about schools around the state and the nation opening, there are many questions about what schools will look like in the fall. On Tuesday, August 4th at 6:30 P.M., I will bring a proposal for school opening in the 2020-21 school year to the Laconia School Board to consider for approval. This proposal is based on the input of many people in our school community. Over 60 educators, parents, and School Board members participated in seven work groups who developed a series of recommendations for in-person learning in our schools to be considered for the plan. We have sent out a survey to students, staff, and parents to gain an understanding of how people feel about returning to school and whether they prefer to return to a model that is remote, hybrid, or face-to-face. The survey results were shared with the School Reopening Oversight Committee yesterday. These results will also be shared with our work groups and the School Board and have informed our proposal.

The proposal will include a "phasing-in" concept. Instead of bringing in everyone to our schools on the first day, we are proposing that we bring groups of students over time. This will allow us to welcome them back and to work through new protocols and guidelines that will be put into place due to COVID-19. Students awaiting entry would work remotely until it is their time to be in school.

The plan for re-entry will cause our schools to feel different when compared to the past. Safety and flexibility are primary goals in our planning. It is also important that teaching and learning is meaningful and engaging experience for our students despite the guidelines and protocols that we are looking to put into place.

Though the proposal will not go to the School Board until next Tuesday, the recommendations and the major components of the plan will be viewed by an Oversight Committee and the work groups this week. Keep in mind that any recommendations and any aspect of the plan could change due to changes in governmental guidelines and/or circumstances related to COVID-19. Here are some recommendations that will likely be included in the proposal that will go to the Board next Tuesday:

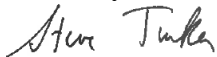
- Maintain social distancing of 3 to 6 feet
- Require face coverings with breaks as social distancing allows
- Regular screening of staff and students

- Establish the following class sizes so proper physical distancing of 3 to 6 feet can be maintained:
 - Elementary: 15 students
 - Middle and High: 18 students
- Utilize remote options when possible for parent-student meetings (504, individualized educational plan (IEP), parent-teacher conferences, etc.)
- Encourage families to transport students to school and follow the guidelines for riding buses established by First Student
- Delay any NHIAA competitions and keep our student athletes in Laconia for the start of the year.
- Ensure the proposal will allow for flexibility to respond to any changes in data and/or circumstances related to COVID-19.

Our plan for reentry will require us to continue to come together as a school community to work through any challenges that may arise. Once our plan is approved, our building administrators will engage with their respective families to provide information and answer building-specific questions.

Uncertainty and varying perspectives about what the plan should include are two challenges that lie before us. Our goal is to transparently communicate with people in our city to get our community behind one plan to reopen our schools. On behalf of Sachem Nation, thank you for your support and your willingness to work together to provide the best possible educational opportunities for our children in Laconia.

Sincerely,



Steve Tucker

Superintendent of the Laconia School District