Parents and Staff of MCCSD #160,

This has been an extremely trying school year for everyone with regard to the COVID situation, adjusting schedules, and planning for various scenarios. I applaud our students, staff, and parents as we have navigated through the fall getting to full in-person learning. The decision making process is very difficult when conditions are changing so rapidly.

In the Millstadt School District, there are currently three positive student cases (5 for the school year) and zero positive staff cases (1 for the year). The three active cases are less than ½ of 1% of our student population. Our mitigation measures within the school certainly appear to be working since there have not been any cases linked to those identified in our school setting. We also continue to monitor students that are absent and require quarantine when necessary. As part of required safety measures, there are currently 29 students quarantined (live with a positive parent, close contact to someone that tested positive). This represents less than 4% of our student population.

Based on all of the data that we currently have available, and weighing various educational options, **I write this letter to inform you that we will continue with in-person learning at this time.** However, please make alternative plans for childcare in the event MCCSD #160 is forced to suddenly transition to remote learning either due to additional positive cases, inability to staff the buildings due to quarantine, or a government mandated school closure. Ideally we would give you time after the decision is made. Realistically, it may occur quickly if cases rise at any point this winter.

**With the plan to continue in-person, students MUST remain home if ANY symptoms arise to keep from quarantining multiple other students, staff, and/or classrooms.** This is not the year to attempt perfect attendance or send your child to school hoping they will feel better by lunch time. Please do your part to help us remain open for in-person learning throughout the winter months. Please also expect a phone call from the nurse when your child is absent to determine next steps and do not hesitate to quarantine when symptoms arise.

If you or your child is uncomfortable with in-person learning, and wish to transition to remote learning for the remainder of the school semester, please contact your school’s office.

I hope you all have a wonderful and socially distanced Thanksgiving break.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brad Landgraf

Superintendent