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Hello Maple Run Community –

I wanted to take this opportunity to share the feedback I received from my online survey and provide an update on the state guidance we received on mask usage in schools.

During July, I asked the Maple Run Community, “As a new leader, what are the most important things I need to know to support you and make this year successful?”

Below is a word cloud that represents the highest-ranked words within the shared thoughts. The larger the word, the higher the ranking.



As you can see in the word cloud, the most important words are “communication,” “smaller,” “sizes,” and “grading.” When I look at the themes of all the comments, communication is the top priority. Therefore, I know that I need to establish two-way communication. It is critical for me to listen to all members of the Maple Run community.

We had a total of 74 community members who provided 94 thoughts and 1,870 ratings of those ideas. Here are some characteristics of those participants:

- Of our 74 community members who participated, they identified themselves as:
  - 10 staff members,
  - 25 teachers,
  - 2 students,
  - 28 parents,
  - 1 community member
  
- And to the question of, “Which school do you most identify with?” these were the following responses:
  - BFA – 18
  - Fairfield Center School – 5
  - Northwest Career and Technical Center – 2
  - St. Albans City School – 19
  - St. Albans Town Educational Center – 22

With communication as our top-identified need in the district, I am committed to creating these opportunities. As I stated in my last letter, I will be setting up times to make this happen late this summer and fall.

Thank you to everyone for participating, and if you did not get a chance to provide input, there will be another online opportunity in September.

This past week, Governor Scott announced the written masking guidance from the Agency of Education and the Department of Health. Yesterday, we received the communication. Within it, the Agency of Education and the Department of Health clearly stated their recommendation that mask-wearing continue. It is up to the local boards and administration to set the expectations for their schools. While I know that all families are eager to understand the masking requirements in our schools, I believe that the best decisions are made when there is time to collaborate and thoroughly look at all aspects of the issue. Next week, the Maple Run Leadership Team and the Champlain Valley Superintendents will be reviewing the memo to understand the implications and how we will respond to the guidance both as a school district and as a region. While I know that is some time from now, I plan to send out an update next Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, and discuss it at our next board meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for the continued support of all students in Maple Run and your patience as we determine the best way forward during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,



Bill Kimball