



June 26, 2020

Re: 2020-21 Planning Update

Dodgers,

I hope this message finds all of you well and enjoying this summer break with your loved ones. While schools are not in session, our district is well under-way in preparing for the 2020-21 school year. I am writing today to share some important updates as we approach the end of June.

Reopening Plans

This afternoon, Governor Murphy and Commissioner Reppollet released their long anticipated reopening plan for schools entitled, [The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education](#). After reading the guidance, I am able to report that our district's broad planning measures to date have placed us on track to open schools in compliance with the provisions that the state plan sets forth. Please know that our intention is to open schools for all students who are able to attend while providing virtual accommodations for any students and staff members with medical concerns. In the process of reopening, student and staff safety will be paramount.

Over the next few weeks, we will engage in several community actions to ensure that our students and families are fully prepared for the reopening. These activities include:

- Inviting parents and students to participate in a District Restart Committee that will play an active role in advising our reopening efforts
- Surveying parents regarding concerns and suggestions related to their child's participation in a return to school
- Publishing our Reopening Plan, which will include a variety of contingencies should state guidance change

We look forward to keeping you up to date regarding these efforts as the summer progresses.

Anti-racism Efforts

In response to the tragic murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and others, the Madison Public Schools have initiated actions to acknowledge and take responsibility for addressing any manifestations of structural racism in our school system. It is our desire to unite our community in an effort to shift our focus from "not being racist" to being explicitly anti-racist. This effort is non-partisan, all-inclusive and results-oriented.

While our faculty and administration engages in district anti-racism efforts, we want to include the voices of parents, students and community members in our ongoing mission to create equitable outcomes for all Madison students. If you are interested in being a part of this work,

MADISON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mark Schwarz, *Superintendent*



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please complete our [Anti-racism Advisory Group Interest Form](#) by July 9, 2020. Worksessions will be scheduled based on participants' availability.

If you would like to learn more about our efforts to date, please view my [June 9th Letter to the Community](#) and the [recording of our panel discussion that took place at the June 15th Superintendent Coffee](#).

New District Website and App

To improve communication and information accessibility, the district will soon be rolling out a new website and app provided by [Apptegy](#). The new website will be simplified and easier to navigate. The new Madison Public Schools App will be available on Google Play and the App Store. By moving to an integrated App and Website, the district will be able to eliminate its use of separate messaging systems. Instead, all communications can be sent via email, text message, social media, phone calls and app alerts, all through one system. Additionally, the app and website will operate from the same app-based platform, which will ensure consistent navigation between interfaces. We look forward to providing a modern communications system that Madison deserves. More information regarding the rollout will be provided next week.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information. I look forward to seeing and speaking with you again soon. In the meantime, you have my best wishes for good health and a relaxing summer.

Sincerely,

Mark Schwarz
Superintendent of Schools