July 29, 2020

Good afternoon EGF Families and Staff Members,

I hope all of you are doing well! The last few weeks have been a little unsettling for many of us with all of the unknowns regarding the start of the 2020-21 school year. Governor Walz and MDE Commissioner Ricker stated they would be making an official announcement on Thursday, July 30, 2020. EGF ISD 595 staff members have been preparing for three scenarios (in-person, hybrid learning and distance learning) with the understanding that all three may need to be implemented at different times during the school year. District leaders have not been told what time the announcement will be made, but anticipate it could be during the Governor’s regular press conference. Once the announcement has been made by Governor Walz, the school district plans to relay the information to families and staff members via text and email messages.

The results of the EGF ISD 595 family and staff surveys were shared with the public last week and district leaders greatly appreciated your feedback. Close to 20% of the families indicated they were not comfortable sending their children back to school in the in-person or hybrid models and district officials are working on plans to provide “distance learning only” options for students. The official Distance Learning Plan for the school district has been updated to include plans for a more structured day with higher learning expectations for students. A “Distance Learning Request Form” is being developed and will be shared with parents in the near future. For planning reasons, district administrators will need to know how many students will be participating in a full-time distance learning model if the in-person and/or hybrid models are implemented. At this time, district leaders are calculating the capacity limits for classrooms in preparation for the hybrid model. The hybrid plan will attempt to have as many students participate in face to face instruction on a daily basis as possible while also meeting all of the safety requirements.

Please stay tuned for updates and feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am excited to hear what Governor Walz has to say tomorrow.

THANK YOU!

Mike Kolness
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