

November 2, 2020

Good Afternoon, District 101 Parents!

You are invited to attend a Town Hall Meeting this Wednesday prior to our Special Board of Education meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to provide for an interactive question and answer session for parents, Board of Education members, and members of the administrative team the chance to discuss timely issues pertaining to the future of the 2020-21 school year. The information below is designed to help clarify the format for Wednesday afternoon/evening, as well as to overview some additional background information provided on a number of timely issues. This includes results from the recent parent survey, additional information on D101's fall MAP testing, and an FAQ that addresses many of the timely topics highlighted in the many messages we have received from parents over the past month.

Logistics for Wednesday's Town Hall Meeting

The State's October 25 mitigation measures limited gatherings/meetings to no more than 25 people, and that Order applies to Board of Education meetings. Therefore, Wednesday's Town Hall and Special Board Meetings will be held virtually. The Town Hall will begin at 5:30 pm and the Special Board of Education meeting at 6:30 pm. You can attend either meeting by clicking the following [LINK](#). We have tested our supporting technology extensively over the past several days, and we fully expect the audio/video quality to be far superior than that experienced at our October 19 meeting. You are encouraged to use the "Join From Browser" option for best results.

Question Overview & Submission

You will find an FAQ as one of the included documents within this message. If after reviewing the FAQ there are other pressing questions that you would like the Board and administrative team to address Wednesday night, please submit those questions by 6:00 pm Tuesday evening to the following address: boequestions@d101.org. Additionally, parents are welcome to ask questions during the event by submitting them via the Chat function or by "raising a hand" within the WebEx app, with users being unmuted manually to present their questions to the Board.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document

The attached FAQ captures many of the common themes we have received from parents over the past month with relatively concise answers included. We plan to address and expound upon many of these same questions Wednesday night.

Parent Survey Results

Also attached with this correspondence, please find a one-page summary of results from the recent Parent Survey that was conducted by the Board. Below are some of the most salient points taken from the survey results, in bulleted fashion, along with quick analysis comments:

- Parental feedback was outstanding, with 85.8% of D101 parents submitting a response.
- There was relatively strong overall support for continuation of the current hybrid model (60.8% to 39.2%).
- Support for the hybrid model versus an all-in model was very strong for elementary (64.0% to 36.0%) and moderately strong for McClure (54.9% to 45.1%).
- When asked about the choice between an all-in option versus a fully remote option (if Hybrid were eliminated, there was very strong support across all categories (District, elementary, and McClure) for preferring the all-in option. (approximately 80% to 20% across all categories)

Takeaways

In the current environment, parents do not have a strong preference to abandon social distancing to create more in-school learning time as an option for changing/improving the current revised hybrid model. However, parents (along with Board members, administrators, and teachers of D101, it can be noted) continue to desire more in-school learning for their children, with parameters included that continue to maximize safety and continuity of learning. This is especially true at the junior high school. Parents will note an action item included in the Board Agenda directing the administrative team to consider additional improvement measures that may create more in-person learning opportunities while maintaining foundational safety parameters.

MAP Comparative Information

The administrative team has gathered more information associated with fall MAP results to provide some additional context for understanding how our students' performance compares with grade level counterparts, both locally and nationally.

- To start, this year's overall results are a bit more challenging to compare with historical MAP results since NWEA (MAP's parent group) renormed the test in 2020 for the first time since 2015.
- The Fall Mean RIT Township Comparison attachment provides D101 grade-level performance with three local, high-performing districts who also MAP tested their students this fall (Highlands 106, Pleasantdale 107, and Gower 62).
 - In every grade-level comparison in reading, D101 students outperformed the comparison districts by between 3 to 5.5 RIT points and by between 5-10 national percentile points.
 - The comparison districts outperformed D101 second-graders by .6 RIT point and 2 national percentile points in math.
 - In all other grade-levels, D101 students outperformed the local district comparison group in math by between 2 and 8.3 RIT points, and by between 5-12 national percentile points.

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- Differentials between D101 and the comparison school districts generally grow in reading and math the longer students move through our system.
- The Fall Mean RIT National Comparison shows that the D101 mean scores in reading place our grade-level cohorts between the 96th and 98th national percentiles. In math, this range is between the 85th and 98th national percentiles.

We hope that you find the included information useful, and we hope that you will join us Wednesday starting at 5:30 pm!