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July 31, 2020

PCS families and community,

I know that this has been a trying time for families, especially our students, since we paused in-person schooling in March. We are now involved in the process of figuring out what education in the Fall is going to look like. Based on guidance from the New York State Education Department, we were mandated to develop three re-opening plans as possibilities.

While building these plans we used guidance from the following sources:

- The New York State Department of Education (NYSED)
- The Steuben County Department of Health
- The New York State Department of Health (DOH)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Parent/family surveys
- Teacher surveys
- Stakeholder groups (parents, teachers, students, administrators, board members, community members, school medical director)

The feedback that was provided through the surveys, and the conversations with stakeholder groups was and still is incredibly valuable as we navigate through making these plans a reality. Based on the feedback, it is clear that a majority of our PCS community is in favor of getting our students back for in-person instruction to the extent possible. We have a plan that we feel is well constructed and makes it possible for 100% of our students to attend five days per week, and we were able to make this plan while following all of the very strict health and safety requirements provided to us.

However, Governor Cuomo is scheduled to make his decision sometime next week by August 7 on how schools are required to open, so we have two alternate plans ready if we need to adjust. The hybrid model (appendix C of the plan), is a creative way of getting some students here all day, five days per week, while others have a combination of in-person instruction and remote learning. We also have a fully remote plan (appendix D) which means students will not attend school at all.

Since we have no idea what the governor will decide, we have strategically given an overview of each plan without getting specific. We will wait to see what he decides and then begin to provide families with more specific information relating to individual schedules and class placements. Our plan is to provide that information during the week of August 10.

Additionally, it is very important that families understand that we developed these plans with the highest priority placed on student and faculty/staff safety using the guidelines provided by NYSED, the DOH and the CDC. We know that even if we open with all of our students, it is going to be a different experience teaching all of them about social distancing and the wearing of face coverings. Our plan outlines all of the procedures and protocols that we will follow in order to keep our school clean, safe, and open.

Finally, I can't stress enough that we are all in this journey together and will need to work together more than we ever have. I have been amazed at the support of the PCS community over the past several months and know that we will get through this together and be stronger as a result.

As always, please reach out to me directly with any questions or concerns about anything in our plan at bayk@prattsburghcsd.org or 522-6211. In times like these, there are many questions!

I hope to see you all soon.

Stay safe and be well!

Sincerely,

Kory Bay