

To: The SKSD Learning Community

From: Linda Savastano, Superintendent

Date: September 8, 2020

RE: SKSD Reentry Update & Podcast Now Available!

Upcoming Meetings

- Town Council & School Committee Joint Meeting on September 10 at 6 PM
- School Committee Meeting on September 14 at 7 PM

SKSD Reentry Planning Update

There is nothing more important than the safety of our staff and our students. The SKSD Initial Reentry Design Plan provides a progressive, innovative, and flexible plan that allows us to not only create a safe environment but allows us all to **feel safe**. **The plan is grounded on the premise that we can support a hybrid learning environment that will provide in-person and virtual learning simultaneously. It also allows for fluidity, flexibility, and personal choice.**

The [SKSD Initial Reentry Design Plan](#) and other important documents and guidance are available on our [SKSD Reentry Website](#).

Staggered Start Communication

On September 1st I sent out a message regarding our staggered start plan for our reentry plan so that we could ALL be in-person by October 9. This message is available [HERE](#). The SKSD Staggered Start Calendar is available [HERE](#).

I have also created another **snapshot message using a podcast**. This 6-minute message will provide another update that you can very easily listen to and share with others. **The link to the Superintendent's Snapshot Podcast Reentry website is available here: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1333075>**

State Building Walk-Throughs

As shared in the ***Reentry Staggered Start Podcast***, we had our state-building walkthroughs on Thursday, September 3rd. The walkthrough visit was confirmed at 7:30 am and the teams arrived at 8:30 am. The RI National Guard and RI Department of Health met with the Leadership Team, including a member from the Teachers' Union. The visiting team then toured each building. **While we passed in most areas, we were marked *in-progress* for our building signage because we are currently putting that in place. We were also identified as *deficient and in progress* for our HVAC / Air Exchange.** We knew this was going to happen and do have the air purifiers on order. These will be placed in each learning location. I expect these to arrive the week of Sept 14th. We will work as fast as possible to have them put in the classrooms. We have been in direct contact with the owner of the company. I will upload the visiting team walkthrough reports on our website when I receive them all. I currently only have four of the seven.

Additional Building Level Q & A Informational Sessions

This week we will host on-going informational sessions with our families. During these sessions, we will take your questions and gather your feedback. The invitation with the ZOOM links will be sent out from the principals and PTO/PTGs. You should have already received this invitation. Please reach out to your building principal if you have not received it yet or have any questions.

School	Date & Time
SKHS	September 9, 6:30 pm
CCMS	September 10, 6:00 pm
BRMS	September 8, 6:00 pm
PDES	September 9, 5:00 pm
WKES	September 9, 5:00 pm
MES	September 9, 5:00 pm
WES	September 10, 5:00 pm
PPS	September 10, 4:00 pm

Fall I Season for Athletics

The Governor announced on Friday that there will be RIIL Athletics this Fall. The sports will be limited and the current season will be called Fall I. Ultimately, if a district participates is determined by each district. We will be in touch this week with an update about this and how we will move forward. We do anticipate participating in this Fall I Season. (Fall II Season will take place later in the Spring of 2021.)

Staggered Start for Our Differently Abled Children

Last week our Director of PPS, Charity Shea, sent a message to our parents of children that have IEPs. Charity and I are going to offer a Q&A for our parents on September 10th. An excerpt from Charity's message is available below.

I am reaching out to you to share our planning for students who are supported through IEPs. In our partial in-person and limited in-person plans, we identified that our vulnerable populations would be given priority for in-person learning. As we learned that we were able to use a staggered start to the school year to introduce students back into the buildings in smaller groups, it became clear that we need to extend this same priority to our students with IEPs in this planning. We know that many of our students did very well with virtual learning and made tremendous growth. For others, that experience was not as successful so we need to be mindful of that as we plan for in-person learning opportunities to start the school year.

To ensure that all students are being offered FAPE in their least restrictive environment, and to ensure we are offering services equitably, we will offer parents the option of accessing in-person services. Also, when a student that is in our specialized program begins, they will remain in school every day. These programs are with Sarah Salazar, Amy Bouchard, Tiffany Court, Christina Correia, Deb Estrella, Bridget Gonsalves, Carrie Streck, Michelle Laurent, Megan Sullivan or Michelle Steimle. They will require the consistency of being in-person to learn new rituals and routines.

Week of Sept 8 - 11: Staff Return & Professional Learning for All!

This week is our Staff Professional Learning Week. We will also have Tim Brown kick us off on September 8 with a keynote on ***Working Together as a Professional Learning Community***. We know that we need each other now more than ever! Many of our staff are hosting breakout sessions. We are also excited to have other outside folks helping us to learn and grow together. Our staff will begin the week virtually (September 8) where we will focus on **Building Community & Hybrid Learning**. They will have the option to be virtual or in-person on Sept 9 when we will focus on **Health and Safety in School During COVID**. We have asked them to join us in person in their school building on September 10 (**Social Emotional Learning Day**) and September 11 (**Theory into Action Day**).

Stage II & Building Project Update

The School Department is working to put the final touches on our Stage II Building Project submission to the RI Department of Education and the School Building Authority of RI. During the Stage II process, a district works with an architectural and engineering team to propose solutions to the identified issues. This process requires the development of schematic design documentation that can be used to provide dependable cost estimates. These scope descriptions and the accompanying costs are the basis for establishing a budget and project descriptions that are forwarded to the SBA Advisory Board and the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education. Currently, South Kingstown could qualify for up to 50% reimbursement for our projects. Our Stage II is due on September 15, 2020.

Learn more about the Future School Building Improvement Projects, access current documents related to the projects including drafts of the Stage 2 document and current cost estimates by visiting here: https://www.skschools.net/departments/facilities_and_grounds/facilities_and_capital_improvement_program

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