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July 10, 2020

Dear Readington School Community,

I hope you have had some time to enjoy the beginning weeks of summer! I am writing to share information about the Department of Education (DOE) guidance for the reopening of schools in September.

On June 26, 2020 Governor Murphy alongside Commissioner Repollet announced the release of *The Road Back: New Jersey's Restart and Recovery Plan for Education*. This is the long-awaited guidance document that sets forth a strategic road map for reopening our schools. This plan specifically calls for our brick and mortar schools to be open in the fall by stating, "...absent a shift in the public health data, school buildings will open in some capacity for in-person instruction and operations in the fall."

Accordingly, each district is expected to develop a plan for the reopening of school that will be shared by August 1. The Readington Township Public Schools began the planning phases weeks ago with our surveys to staff, students, and parents. These surveys and along with other resources were used as guidance when the Reopening Task Force met at the end of June. The Task Force, made up of staff and administration, developed factors for consideration (i.e. things we needed to think about) in reopening schools. The Task Force did this through the lens of three scenarios: a virtual opening, a traditional opening, and a hybrid opening (combination of virtual and in-person instruction). Now that we have developed factors to consider and we have formal guidance from the Department of Education, we updated Board of Education committees and have convened our Restart Committee. The Restart Committee is made up of administration, staff, parents, and Board of Education members and they will provide input in the decision-making process that will ultimately become our district's plan for the fall.

In the end, the guidelines set forth in the DOE document will surely mean the 2020-2021 school year will look different. I cannot emphasize enough that we are seeking responsible, reasonable solutions to open our schools in some capacity while also meeting the health and safety requirements of the Department of Health and Department of Education. Our district remains committed to our mission of empowering members of our community to lead purposeful lives with integrity, cultivate a spirit of discovery, and embrace connections in our diverse, global society, even amid a world-wide pandemic. I am certain our community's resilience will continue to shine.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Should you have any questions, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Hart", written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools