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Dear Readington Families,

At the Board of Education meeting this past Tuesday, I reviewed plans for next steps in expanding in-person learning throughout the district. The purpose of this letter is to broadly inform parents of these plans. For the full presentation, please visit our Readington home page or [click here](#).

In my communication on November 13 I wrote, “We are eager to move into another phase of reopening more fully for in-person instruction, and we are committed to continuing an incremental phase in approach. Given the current status of the public health crisis, we plan to do this in a methodical, gradual way, prioritizing small groups of students with special needs. If your child meets eligibility criteria to return to school, you will be contacted by the Pupil Services Department.” I am pleased to say that we have continued to bring back students with special needs for more in-person instruction. We began at the end of November with a specific criteria of students and have broadened to now having all students with IEPs in grades K-5 for in-person learning 4 days per week. Our next phase involves returning certain groups of students with IEPs in grades 6-8 on February 1. The district is methodically and deliberately opening schools more broadly. We hope to continue this effort in the coming months.

Our next steps are to expand in-person learning for all students in all grades. Before we can begin our next phase, we will need the COVID-19 Activity Report to return to the color yellow. To view these reports please [click here](#). The designation of yellow is a sign of less COVID activity and movement in the right direction. Specifically, we will expand in-person learning to all students who wish to return 4 days/week on an early dismissal schedule, maintaining virtual Wednesdays in the beginning of the phase. Reopening schools more broadly will also mean that **we may not be able to maintain a 6-foot distance in all settings** as we have done thus far this year. We will follow the recommendation to maintain a 6-foot distance where practical, but it simply may not be practical as we return more students for in-person instruction. Once the activity report returns to the color green, we will begin to open schools more broadly expanding to full days of instruction. A virtual learning option will still be available as we bring students back for more in-person learning.

While we refine these plans and consider the input we have received, please know that we must implement the beginning phases of the plan. Our next step is to survey parents regarding their intention to send children back to school once this expansion of in-person learning begins.

Parents will continue to have the option to select fully virtual learning. This will allow us to develop class lists, seating arrangements, schedules, and transportation routes for the next phase. Please look for a communication early next week with a survey regarding this option.

Finally, and unrelated to COVID-19 and the expansion of in-person learning, is the forecasted inclement weather for next week. As I wrote in my December 11 letter, remaining snow days for the school year will become virtual learning days for students. Therefore, if we do get the forecasted inclement weather, please prepare your family to move to a virtual learning day.

We remain committed to an expansion of in-person learning this school year. We thank the community for your patience as we move forward with our plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Hart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools