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Dear Pennsbury School District Community,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have found safe and healthy ways to enjoy time with your families and friends this summer. Personally, I have found some time to engage in reading books that were on my wish list for a while and most recently our administrative team has been discussing themes and concepts related to race and equity. This is helping us prepare for the important work of addressing issues of inequity that may be present within our system. At this evening's public School Board meeting, I am proud to announce we are recommending a candidate for the new position of Director of Equity, Diversity and Education. This appointment will ensure that a mission, vision and action plan are developed and implemented with sustained attention and intention.

Additionally, our team has also worked intensely on all matters pertaining to reopening schools, including the development of the District's:

- a. Health and Safety Plan
- b. Athletic Health and Safety Plan
- c. Continuity of Education Plan

The first two of these items are on the Board Action Meeting agenda for this evening. Significant planning has gone into the development of these documents and they will serve as our guiding principles as we move forward with welcoming students and staff back to our campuses in the coming weeks and months. Various stakeholders have participated in multiple committee meetings to share their perspectives on important concerns such as distancing, face coverings, transportation, etc.

Plans for a safe return set parameters for what is possible in terms of educational opportunities. Thus, once the Health and Safety Plans are approved, we will quickly shift our communication strategies to focus on the Continuity of Education offerings for the upcoming school year. To that end, teams have been meeting and planning throughout the system to develop various models. Faculty will be surveyed regarding these options beginning tomorrow. Below is a summary addressing some of the most frequent questions and comments we have fielded for the past several weeks.

MISSION

Recognizing our proud traditions and diverse community, the Pennsbury School District prepares all students to become creative, ethical, and critical thinkers for lifelong success in a global society.

Requirements of the Pennsbury School District Health and Safety Plan:

- **Cleaning and Ventilation**
 - Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces per CDC guidelines
 - Promoting and expecting good hand cleaning hygiene
 - Making hand sanitizer available in classroom, on buses and in common areas
 - Encouraging student/staff using water bottles from home
 - Increasing outside air ventilation/circulation through windows and HVAC systems
- **Social Distancing**
 - Arranging classroom furniture intentionally to face forward when possible
 - Spacing students at a minimum of 6 ft per CDC guidance
 - Revising procedures for arrival, dismissal, passing time, lunch, etc.
 - Using communal spaces only as social distance allows
 - Limiting volunteers/visitor so professional services continue
 - Prohibiting classroom extensions
 - Providing bus transportation, maximum of two to seat, use all available space, encourage families to transport if possible
- **Health Monitoring**
 - Training students and staff to self-monitor with a checklist
 - Informing families of monitoring procedures
 - Sharing reminders through announcements, signs, videos
 - Not requiring global entry screening
 - School nurses evaluating as needed, following a 7-step protocol
- **Professional Development**
 - Cleaning, Disinfecting, Sanitizing and Ventilation Practices
 - Cleaning/Custodial Staff
 - General Staff
 - Substitutes
 - Reviewing Health & Safety Plan, COVID-19 social distancing and safety protocols, COVID-19 protocols for monitoring student & staff health
 - All Staff
 - All Students
 - Training for Transportation, School Health and Custodial Staff

Requirements of the Pennsbury School District Health and Safety Plan (cont'd):

- Other Considerations (i.e.: Face Coverings)
 - Students and staff must follow active Governor's order of 7/1/2020.
 - Face coverings required for all staff unless qualifying for an exception.
 - Students must wear face coverings within 6 ft unless qualifying for an exception.
 - "Masks" include clear face shields.
 - Students/staff at higher risk for severe illness will have individual plans.
 - If state order is lifted, face coverings will be encouraged but optional for staff/students except in hallways and on District transportation.
 - Counselors, psychologists, nurses, social workers and teachers are all available to support students' social/emotional health and well-being in person or virtually.

Based upon the fully and thoughtfully developed health and safety considerations outlined above, along with the community survey a few weeks back that garnered over 7,600 responses, leaders and educators within the District have been developing plans for various educational models outlined below. While there are many more details behind this summary, trust that we will continue to reflect upon the input provided by staff, students and our community-at-large. As mentioned previously, there is a staff survey prepared for distribution tomorrow once the Health and Safety Plan is approved. So all are aware, we have a great deal of respect for our hard working, caring educators. Their voices will be taken into account as we have the ability to revise the Health and Safety Plans moving forward if need be. We are also very interested in hearing the thoughts of staff members on how to support them in offering any of the educational models listed below.

Pennsbury Reopening Consideration (Plan A)

Full Traditional In-School Education with added safety/cleaning elements.

Rationale: Prioritizes getting students back to school for the full in-school academic experience. Social distancing is reduced simply because of the number of students and staff who may opt to stay out.

- All students in school every day.
- Classrooms are arranged to provide maximum distance between desks.
 - In most classrooms, this is approximately 3 feet between desks/seats.
 - When furniture & space permits, desks/seats will face the same direction.
- Staggered class transitions should occur at Elementary and Middle Levels.
 - Masks will need to be worn during change of classes at all levels.
 - Given recent PA directive, students would need to be masked throughout the day. Specific exceptions could apply.
- No Lockers/Locker Areas will be used.

Pennsbury Reopening Consideration (Plan B)

Rotating two days per week in-person and three days at home for remote work completion.

Rationale: This plan maximizes safety precautions by reducing the number of students in classrooms, hallways and on buses. It also ensures meaningful connections between teachers and students.

- Students are divided into two groups, with half coming to school on Mondays and Wednesdays and the other half coming to school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
 - Most students remain at home on Fridays for remote instruction.
- Certain student populations with specific educational needs could potentially attend more frequently.
- Classrooms are arranged to provide maximum distance between desks (i.e.:6 ft).
 - When furniture and space permits, desks/seats will face the same directions.
- Staggered class transitions should occur at Elementary and Middle Levels.
 - Masks will need to be worn during change of classes at all levels.
- No Lockers/Locker Areas used.
- The teachers would manage content delivery using developmentally-appropriate learning management platform.
 - Grades 6-12 will utilize Canvas.
 - Grades K-5 will utilize Google Classroom.
- There will be an expectation for professional staff to provide weekly opportunities for synchronous instructional opportunities, especially on Friday.

Pennsbury Reopening Consideration (Plan C)

Full Online Instruction for all students for a duration similar to Spring 2020.

Rationale: This plan exists in the event schools are forced to close for emergency purposes related to health and safety concerns.

- The experience would be similar to Spring 2020 with some improvements.
- The teachers would manage content delivery using developmentally-appropriate learning management platform.
 - Grades 6-12 will utilize Canvas.
 - Grades K-5 will utilize Google Classroom.
- Students in need of devices will have access to them.
- There will be an expectation for all staff to provide multiple, weekly opportunities for synchronous instructional opportunities.

Pennsbury Reopening Consideration (Plan D)

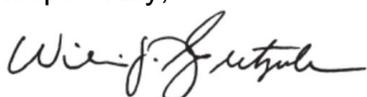
Full Online Programming Option - Independent of Plans A, B or C

Rationale: For families not comfortable sending their child/children to school under the above plans, offer a separate remote learning option.

- The online courses are independent and separate from the other plans.
- Focus will be on core areas including Reading/English, Math, Science and Social Studies.
 - The content will be standards-aligned and rigorous.
 - Students may be supported with work completion by a Pennsbury employee.
- We are considering options to provide electives and special courses at the secondary level.
- If desired, students will be able to leave this remote learning program and return to whichever plan the District is offering at the end of the first semester.

We plan to work closely with our faculty in the coming weeks to gather their input and determine if Plan D can be offered by Pennsbury staff who are willing and able to teach virtually using the appropriate content and instructional delivery methods desired by our students and parents. The Board of School Directors will take up a vote on the Continuity of Education Plan at a special meeting scheduled for July 30, 2020 beginning at 7:00 p.m. It will be held virtually and live streamed. Details to access the event will be made available as the date nears. Until then, please stay safe and well. We miss seeing and being with the students!

Respectfully,



William J. Gretzula, Ed. D.
District Superintendent
Pennsbury School District