



Michael Wilson

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Dear Seymour Schools Community,

We hope that this letter finds you all safe and well and enjoying this much needed family time. As you may have heard at the July Board meeting, the COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance panel was formed in March to work on developing a successful reentry plan for our district. The panel meets frequently and have been keeping up by reading everything that comes from the State. The goal of the panel is to have a successful reopening of the schools while keeping our students and staff safe. Everyone wants to get back to school as we know that virtual learning is good but being in the classroom is much better. Developing a strong foundation for this plan is critical, but we ask for your patience and understanding as it is not concrete since this pandemic is ever changing and thus guidance from the state is also ever changing which thus makes this plan ever changing.

The panel continues to meet and work and we are all doing the best we can with the current information that we have. I would like to take a moment to compliment the team on the work they have done so far. These members are: Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Tencza, Mrs. Holmes, Mr. Kearns, and Mr. Connors. Safety is and always will be our number one goal. All decisions are made based on the health and safety of both our students and staff. The rationale behind the quick survey that was sent out was to give parents a voice to share about whether or not they had planned to send their child back to school. This was and is needed for us to plan on staffing requirements. That is why the survey stated that another document would be forthcoming after the plan is released as to identify those students that choose to remain home so that we can restructure classes to meet all students needs while both physically in school and while on distance learning (the length of time allowed for distance learning has yet to be established by the Connecticut State Department of Education). A longer survey will also be disseminated that asks more specific questions based on your experiences with distance learning thus far as well as items on reopening.

As we go along, the panel will be expanded to include others including a Board member, a parent representative, a teacher representative, an administrator representative, a Pupil Services representative, a food service representative, a paraprofessional representative, a technology representative, and an administrative assistant representative. This extended panel will meet over the next two weeks and present the final plan to the Board of education prior to July 24, 2020. This plan will be shared with all after it is presented to the Board of Education. In continued collaboration, District Administration, the Naugatuck Valley Health District, our Head Nurse, and the Office of Emergency Management Director continue to discuss these changes as well as where we are from a health and safety perspective in Seymour to determine how and when to proceed.

We understand that there are still many questions and concerns; however, we are doing our best as a team to address these in the plan that you will receive later next week. We are here for you and as such, please reach out to me. As we all are aware, this pandemic is both fluid and ever-changing, however, our numbers are trending in a positive direction as of July, which is why we are planning for a potential return to school in the fall of 2020.

Thank you,

Michael Wilson