



CABRILLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SUPERINTENDENT

Sean McPhetridge, Ed.D.

July 20, 2020

Dear CUSD Families and Staff:

Last Thursday, the CUSD Governing Board convened to discuss the district's budget update and hear recommendations on how we can return to school. The staff presentation on this planning will continue on Thursday, July 23, and we encourage you to join us. If you do not plan on making a public comment, we encourage you to follow along on our YouTube channel where we will simulcast the meeting. Because of the decision to end the meeting at midnight last Thursday before the recommendations could be presented in full, this additional meeting will allow the Board and public to hear the full set of school re-opening recommendations, allowing us to review the planning based on the work of the steering committee, focus groups, and survey input that represented CUSD families and staff.

Meanwhile, [on Friday, July 17, Governor Newsom held a press conference that provided us with new guidance on the reopening of schools](#). That new guidance now mandates all districts in all counties on the COVID-19 watchlist to begin the year in distance learning, and the new guidance reinforces CUSD's recommendation to start the year in remote learning before transitioning back to in-school instruction. While San Mateo County is not on this state watchlist yet, we have been told to expect being added to the watchlist in weeks ahead. If and when that occurs, we will need to comply with state mandates regarding implementing distance learning until we are told we can return staff and students to campus.

[The state's new guidelines for reopening schools are clear and specific mandates](#). Meanwhile, although San Mateo County is not currently on the state watchlist, we are told we might likely be put on that watchlist in weeks ahead. To put this in perspective, currently over 30 counties are on the watchlist, representing over 90% of students in the state, so it is highly likely San Mateo County and all its schools might be placed on this watchlist in the future as well. CUSD will adjust accordingly as required of us, and we will base our ongoing planning based on this new mandate as we also work to implement the mandates provided by the state with regard to the remote learning requirements we all must follow.

We have also been asked questions about the state's outlined requirements for instruction while we are expected to participate in remote learning. The guidelines from the new state budget and also from California Senate Bill 98 are clear about what we must do ahead in order to receive state funding, and so these expectations from the state apply to all public school districts in the state. Essentially the state has now provided us with clear expectations about what families should expect with regard to students receiving regular and rigorous remote learning opportunities with daily student-teacher interaction, and it is our expectation that as a district we must meet those requirements in order to receive funding. Please know we will outline requirements and expectations in more detail Thursday's Board Meeting, and we will follow up with another letter after that describing what to expect in our return to school.

As always, please know we hope you and your families are staying safe and healthy during this time.

Sincerely,

Sean McPhetridge, Ed.D.

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Superintendent