

From: Kristin Baranski
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 10:41 AM
To: All Staff
Subject: Staff Update 7.6.2020

Santee School District Staff,

I wanted to thank the 284 staff members who have submitted input this past week regarding potential plans for our fall re-opening. Based on some of the responses, I wanted to share some additional information with you so you have a better understanding of the priority and our direction.

1. Since May, **multiple** agencies (national, State, local) have provided input on guidance and recommendations for the safe re-opening of schools. Guidance coming from these agencies is just that, guidance. **In California, every district is expected to make a local decision, one that is the “best thinking” for their local community.** Our decision will be based on our best attempt to reduce risk to staff and students. I need you to trust me on this point. We have been quality consumers of the California Department of Public Health Re-Opening Guidance and will continue to follow their lead. This agency has been identified as a lead agency in our local public health orders.
2. I provided you with our Board of Education’s priority, the safe return of all students on August 19, in my staff update on June 24. The staff and parent input form sent to you and all parents was intended to gain insight from our local community should we be unable to bring all students back to campus on August 19. Knowing how highly fluid this pandemic has been, every district should have a backup plan. The Board will hear our collective thoughts tomorrow night. By the way, our collective thoughts are “all over the place”.
3. Our re-opening plan, the plan that includes **very** detailed information about safety protocols and procedures for schools and departments, should be done by our logistics committee on July 17. I can tell you, in case my updates have been misinterpreted, our return on August 19 will not be “normal, business as usual”. Also, some interpreted our input request as we are in the absence of a plan for the safe re-opening of our schools. It would have been helpful to have this full plan for you to review prior to giving us input on a backup educational plan but I’ve asked the committee to be thoughtful and deliberate in their research and decision making. This action means it will have taken the group a month to finalize the re-opening plan. I think the end product will be helpful and maybe even comforting to read.

The plan will include content on: transportation; student arrival and dismissal procedures, including daily temperature checks for students and staff; on campus traffic flow control; health and safety procedures and training for students and staff; learning space configuration and environment; campus services: water, restroom use, library, school office, health office, play equipment; recess and lunch times; food service; support programs (child care services, counseling services); parents, volunteers, public on campus; cleaning and sanitizing; procedures for positive COVID cases; use of facilities by outside entities; communication.

We will be using your input to help us with staff training needs.

4. Lastly, in early June, you were all asked to complete a return to work survey for the 2020-21 school year. If you have continued concerns about your ability to return to work (job dependent on the timing) after you read our full re-opening plan, please reach out to your supervisor as soon as possible.

Dr. Kristin Baranski
Superintendent
Santee School District

