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Ellington Board of Education Endorses Fall Reopening Plan 2020

School Administration to Submit Plan to CT State Department of Education on July 24, 2020

ELLINGTON, CT – On Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at a special meeting of the Ellington Board of Education, the Board unanimously endorsed the administration's proposed Ellington Public Schools Reopening Plan 2020. The plan has been submitted to the Connecticut State Department of Education.

The Ellington Board of Education and school district's administration recognize that the reopening plan will continue to be a working draft document as new developments in the health of Connecticut occurs throughout July and August.

"As there is still great uncertainty - it is more important than ever - for the Ellington Public Schools to continue to receive guidance from state and local health experts and input from parents and staff to ensure thoughtful decisions are made regarding the reopening of school."

Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent

The Ellington Public Schools' Reopening Plan 2020 outlines a framework to bring all students back to campus this fall which is rooted in science and data as well as being consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations and the requirements and guidance from the Connecticut's State Department of Education (CSDE) and Department of Health (DPH). Additionally, the plan addresses possible hybrid reopening models and distance learning program options that may very well become a reality as matters of public health shift in the coming weeks.

The Reopening Plan commits to ensuring the safety of all students and staff through the use of multi-layered strategies. The strategies are organized into four sections: Promoting Healthy Behaviors, Maintaining a Health Environment, Maintaining Healthy Operations, and Preparing if Someone Gets Sick.

Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations, states, "Our plan is organized on the scientific and data-based guidance from the Center for Disease Control, Connecticut State Departments of Education and Health and others. The individual strategies contained within are not foolproof, but increase in effectiveness when practiced together. The district is backing up these strategies with significant investments in cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves, and desk shields."

"This plan provides a solid foundation - a good start - for the task of reopening schools. Yet, it is premature for any decisions regarding a full in-person, hybrid, or distance learning reopening to be made at this time. What is important and has been made clear is that parents will have the option to have their child educated from home in an improved distance learning model. The Board of Education strongly encourages continued input from parents, students, and staff as we navigate the upcoming weeks."

Jennifer Dzen, Board Vice-Chair

The plan was developed through a comprehensive process, working with and receiving feedback from faculty, staff, students and families. The district established a Reopening Advisory Committee, with broad community representation, that reviewed several iterations of the plan prior to Board endorsement.

The reopening plan may be viewed in its entirety at www.ellingtonpublicschools.org under Fall Reopening 2020.

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