

RUSD Headline News Wednesday, November 4, 2020

A Message from Superintendent, Dr. Nancy Lynch

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your patience and support as we make the necessary plans and facilities adjustments at our schools to thoughtfully enter Phase 3. We appreciate your time and effort as our partners in the education of students during the pandemic and this transitional period. This has been a challenging time for students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators, and we are grateful for your support.

Election Results Are In:

I honor and value the shared commitment to our schools and the broader community that has been demonstrated by the four individuals who sought election to the RUSD Board of Trustees. These are such critical and uncharted times to lead, and I am humbled by the passion and commitment of Dan Emerson, Chuck Hornbrook, Jacqueline Jaffee and Liz Webb in running for our two open seats.

Congratulations to Liz Webb (incumbent) and Jacqueline Jaffee for being elected to four-year terms on the RUSD Board of Trustees. They will take the Oath of Office and be seated at our Regularly scheduled meeting on December 15, 2020.

I would also like to thank outgoing Trustee Amy Jacobs for generously and passionately serving our school district and community since December 2018 when she was appointed as a Trustee.

Conference Week Schedule - November 16-20:

Students in grades K-5 will shift to **Distance Learning (Monday Schedule) for the entire week** to accommodate Parent-Teacher Conferences and allow time for our Maintenance & Operations department to complete the campus and classroom modifications required for the transition to Phase 3.

Students in grades 6-8 will follow their regular schedule. However, they will not participate in virtual classes in the afternoon to accommodate teacher planning and preparation for the transition to the modified Phase 3 plan that will be shared with families next week by Principal Lynch.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Thank you for using our new Question and Comment Form to submit your feedback. It is good to hear from you! Here are some questions from the first group of submissions:

Are you considering a longer in-person school day than 4 hours? In our Phases of Reintroduction Plan, we explain the rationale for the reduced in-person school day during Phases 2 and 3. At the elementary schools, our specialist teachers meet with every student in the school each week. By limiting the number of contacts our teachers have with different cohorts, we are less likely to close more than one cohort if someone tests positive for COVID-19. By shortening the day, classroom teachers are able to receive their contractual lunch period after students go home, as well as plan lessons and grade student work which is normally done while specialist teachers instruct their class. At Del Mar, the day needs to be split between in-person and virtual to accommodate the 7-period day and limit the number of teachers mixing with multiple cohorts each day. Phase 4 will enable more interactions between different staff members and cohorts which will allow a longer school day.

Are there talks about resuming the Yellow Bus once we transition to Phase 3? We understand that pausing our bus service has created a hardship for families. In an effort to keep our cohorts from mixing, we have put this program on hold. Implementing staggered start and end times at schools to prevent large group gatherings has created additional challenges when considering potential bus schedules. We will continue to discuss the possibility of reinstating this program as we move into the coming months.

Is there a place for students to store their belongings on campus? Students may store their backpacks in their classroom. If students have other items, such as a skateboard which they ride to school, they should check with their teacher to identify a designated place for these items.

Questions or Comments?

Please use our online <u>feedback form</u> to ask questions and/or send comments. This feedback will be checked by designated members of our District Communications Committee to facilitate prompt responses to your questions and potentially include them in upcoming newsletters.

Warm regards,

Nancy Lynch, Ed.D. Superintendent

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PLEDGE DAY!



December 4th, 2020

For those not yet ready to donate, pledge day is a day to commit to a future donation. It helps us forecast and saves valuable volunteer hours.

Pledge or donate at www.foundationforreedschools.com