

Lincoln Park Public Schools

Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders at Lincoln Park Schools Today

James W. Grube
Superintendent of Schools

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Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to thank everyone who completed the survey this past week indicating what instructional option you were choosing for your child to start the 2020-21 school year. We had an overall response rate of 86%, which I feel is a great response rate and provided us with some valuable information to assist in preparing for the opening of school. As we were continuing to prepare for the opening, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 175, now providing districts the option to open school with all students receiving virtual instruction. If you recall in our plan and in my letters, the district never had the option to have 100% virtual instruction for all our students, until yesterday. The health department also released guidance late yesterday afternoon that will need to be reviewed.

At this time the Lincoln Park School District is continuing with the submitted Restart Plan which will open the schools in Phase 2 – Hybrid Option. The new directives and information received this week will be reviewed by the Restart Committee on Monday to discuss further, but again, as of today we are planning on opening. I will share with you the plan to open has been developed with the belief that the schools can meet the guidelines and directives provided by the NJDOE and the CDC, as well as the ability to properly staff the school buildings. If the new information changes, and there are many factors that could cause a change in the current plan, we may need to modify our current opening plan. It is my hope, especially this late in August, that we can continue to move forward with the Hybrid Option, but once again new factors will need to be considered.

I recognize many of you are anxious to hear which cohort your child will be in, which will allow you to arrange your child care options. We are hoping to have that information to you by the end of next week. In referencing the child care, I am happy to report that we were able to arrange for the Boys & Girls Club of Pequannock to provide aftercare for our students, which will take place in our schools' gymnasiums on the days your child is in the building for instruction. This program is not run by the district but will be entirely run by the Boys & Girls Club, and the program will only be offered if the numbers warrant offering the program. More information on the details of the program will be provided by the Boys & Girls Club shortly. Our hope is this option will assist with at least a small portion of child care concerns.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting is on Tuesday, August 18th at 6:30PM and will be held remotely. Once again, the board meeting will be hosted through the Zoom platform and public participation is welcome. The information needed to participate has been posted on the district website, www.lincolnparkboe.org. To increase the security surrounding the meeting, we will be using the registration feature in Zoom. When you click the link on the website, you will be required to register for the meeting by providing your name, mailing address, and email address on the form. Once registered, an email will be sent providing you with a link to the meeting. You must register before 6:15 on the evening of the meeting to enable us to provide you access. There are two opportunities for public comment in the meeting, with the first being towards the beginning of the meeting and the second towards the end.

Once again, please realize that the ever changing directives from the NJDOE and the Governor's office, as well as the complexity of the pandemic, has made it extremely difficult on the planning process. In a normal year at this point in time we would be pretty much ready to open school, and as of today we are still making preparations. As was stated in last week's letter, a great deal of time and energy has gone into the decision-

making process in creating the Restart Plan. We will continue making our decisions based on safety and the goal to return the students and staff back to the school buildings.

Respectfully,

James W. Grube

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