

STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

40 FIELD STREET • PAWCATUCK, CT 06379

PHONE: (860) 572-0506

FAX: (860) 599-8948



BOARD OF EDUCATION: Frank Todisco, Board Chair; Heidi Simmons, Board Secretary

SUPERINTENDENT
Van W. Riley, Ph.D.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
Mary Anne Butler

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES
Allison Van Etten

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
Gary J. Shettle

August 3, 2020

Dear Parents and Families:

I understand there are questions concerning the survey sent to you about reopening plans for this fall. The survey was meant to simply find out who was electing the distance learning option over any plan to return to either of the two "in person" school options, not to decide on an "every day" or hybrid option.

This week I will send a report to the Board of Education with a recommendation to open the school year with a hybrid model for discussion at their August 13th meeting. There is simply no way to offer a program where every student attends every day while maintaining Center for Disease Control social distancing guidelines, health department recommendations and other safety guidelines. In my report later this week, I will address many details related to our hybrid model and how it will work at each of our schools. The hybrid model will allow all students to attend in person two days per week and online three days per week. That will allow us to keep the 6-ft distancing requirement in all classes, keep in school class sizes to around 10 students, reduce the number of students in a building by 50% and reduce the number of students on buses significantly. After August 13th, you will then have a choice for your child(ren) to attend the hybrid model or attend a full distance model until such time we can fully open our schools safely. **Whichever model you select, please know that you will be able to change your selection during the year with appropriate notice given to the school if you so desire.**

I continue to emphasize that whatever we do, we all must prepare for possible changes due to recommendations from the Governor and the Connecticut State Department of Education in addition to our local health department. All families must be prepared for a swift transition to the remote learning model when public health data changes.

These are truly difficult and uncertain times. All stakeholders need to embrace that uncertainty and be ready for any change in our instructional delivery model at any time. All expectations need to be tempered with the reality that none of us can predict how circumstances will unfold over the next several months.

Stonington Public Schools will continue to offer high quality educational programs to all students in a variety of settings. We have incredible teachers and support staff who are eager to help your children achieve and be successful. Together we will move forward to assure every student is successful in a safe environment.

Dr. Van Riley
Superintendent of Schools