



July, 14, 2020

Greeting Voorhees Community,

I recognize that anticipation is high as we look forward to what will come this September for our students, staff, and school community. It is my sincerest wish that everyone is well during these uncertain times. I want to provide a brief update with regard to the District's Plan for September. Previously, I shared the link to the New Jersey Department of Education's Road Back guidance document released on June 26th. Since the release, school district officials throughout New Jersey have been working to interpret the requirements and guidance within to determine what it all might mean for their community.

Our planning is well underway, and we are making progress steadily. Our approach has been, instead of writing the plan with the administration alone, create a draft plan for three possible scenarios of return. One for a full recovery to regular sessions, one for full remote instruction, and a third for a hybrid combination of both. We then sought feedback through committees comprised of parents, staff members, board members and the community. In addition, we are using survey data to influence our decision-making process as well. The process of holding the committee meetings began this week. During each session, we will seek feedback and advice based on the various possible scenarios and guidance contained within the NJDOE document. Ultimately, the information will inform and shape our final plan.

Once we have provided ample opportunities for shareholders to provide input our plan will be finalized. We recognize that in this work there will not be 100% consensus. Unfortunately, some will inherently be left disappointed with some aspect of the plan due to the complexity of the issues we are facing. We believe it better to give ourselves the extra time to thoroughly vet our plan before rushing to publish it, this will ultimately lead to a better result. We will present it to the community no later than the statutory 30 days prior to opening, but hope to be able to present it sooner if possible. We recognize the value in providing our community advanced notice to prepare for September. Lastly, we acknowledge that despite our best efforts, Governor Murphy, through the Department of Education, could make an announcement that overrides our decisions at any time.

I would like to thank all of you that have already contributed to the process. Additionally, thank you for your patience and understanding as we attempt to wade through these uncharted waters.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Gentile

Superintendent of Schools

