

COVID Advisory Team

We met yesterday, November 12, and you have received the letter from Supt. Munoz regarding the fact that RPS is moving into a total DL model. This was a decision based on data provided by Public Health and in partnership with Mayo Clinic. Elementary principals are having meetings today to finalize some details regarding what staff and families need to know. I realize there will be many questions, but start with your admin first. Once you have spoken with them and you feel there aren't adequate answers, please reach out to Angel and me.

One of the things that needs to be addressed is how PD is going to look for our K - 1 staff. They have intensive training this year with the new initiatives that have begun and the trainings have been scheduled for the remainder of the year. Changing our learning model will directly impact that PD. I am not sure how, but those answers will come. I ask that you give the district and us time to figure out what to do to make things work.

As was stated in the superintendent's letter, any staff member that chooses to work from the building will be allowed to do that. It is not a requirement - nor can you be told that you have to do it. One thing that will be required is that if you are in a building, you continue to track where you have been in case of a COVID exposure or break out. This needs to be done for back tracing purposes.

Governors Orders

These were released last week and it will take time to implement. According to a deputy secretary for education the district has up to November 30 to have the plans ready to go. We are meeting with HR and coming up with solutions to fit the elementary and secondary. It may look different in both groups, but I'm more concerned that everyone gets the 30 minutes. We have a lot of work to do in regards to the issue of teaching in person and online simultaneously. That was the cornerstone of the secondary hybrid plan and with last week's orders from the Governor stating that is not to happen - the district has some decisions to make.

Hybrid Models

I continue to meet with the HS and MS teams to discuss what Hybrid schedules will look like if the district ever moves into Hybrid in the secondary setting. As you can imagine, the Governor's EO have impacted some of these plans, so it is good that the groups are planning ahead so that things can be ready. The groups are meeting separately, but I am pleased with the amount of teaching staff that are on each call. MS staff please be talking with your colleagues about the different options that have been presented for scheduling. Nothing is perfect, but at least there are options to look over to see what might work better.

I can't stand all this news that makes everyone tense, so today I want to end on a happier note. Every year, REA sponsors a tree for the Festival of Trees in Rochester. On Thursday, I delivered our tree to one of our members, Amy Campbell, at JM. She and Christin Stegenga have, once again, graciously offered to represent REA by being the decorators. The theme they picked for this year's tree is "Cozy Christmas." In a time when everything else seems so chaotic and messed up, it is nice to know that some traditions continue to move

forward. I want to thank Amy and Christin for continuing to represent REA and offering some hope when we need it most!

Thank you for what you do every day!

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