July 12, 2020

Dear Glen Ridge School Community,

I am writing to give you an update on the planning for the restart of school in the Fall. As you know, Governor Murphy released the New Jersey Department of Education’s “The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education” on June 26. You can find links to the entire document or the Executive Summary by going to https://nj.gov/education/reopening/.

Before and after the release of the Department of Education guidelines, many state and national groups and professional associations have released their own guidelines and suggestions for restarting school. Other states have also published comprehensive restart plans. The administrators and I have reviewed many of these guidelines, which have helped to inform our thinking. I also meet regularly with other superintendents, both from Essex County and elsewhere in New Jersey. Every district is in the midst of restart planning, and the ongoing exchange of ideas helps us all.

In keeping with the protocols set forth in “The Road Back”, I have convened a District Restart Committee, with members drawn from all stakeholder groups, including teachers, parents, administrators, and students. The group had its first meeting on Wednesday, July 9, and will meet again regularly. After each meeting, administrators take the feedback from the group and use it to refine aspects of the District’s plan. Our goal, as required by the Department of Education, is to release a completed restart plan on August 1. This is a tight timeline for a very complex task, but it is intended to provide the school community with time to plan for the coming year.

In keeping with the District’s mission and the Governor’s directive, we are making the health and safety of our students and staff a priority. The work of planning is challenging and all-consuming. The final plan will not please everyone but will be our best, collective effort to address the complex educational, physical and social/emotional needs of our students, staff, and the community as a whole.

As always, I welcome your questions and comments.

Sincerely,

[Signature]