

# EASTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## EASTHAMPTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING

50 Payson Avenue, 2nd Floor Easthampton, MA 01027

(413) 529-1500 TEL

(413) 529-1567 FAX

e-mail: [superintendent@epsd.us](mailto:superintendent@epsd.us)

website: [www.epsd.us](http://www.epsd.us)

Allison LeClair, Ed.D., Superintendent

### Logistical Update #1

July 17, 2020

Dear Families and Staff,

I wanted to take a few moments and check in with you regarding the progress on our reopening plans and next steps. This will be a lengthy message, so I apologize in advance. We, the school leadership team of administrators, and our working committees have been meeting to put pieces in place for the Fall reopening.

This email is coming from the Communication and Governance Reopening Committee. Here are the members of that group:

- Allison LeClair, Superintendent, Facilitator
- Cindy Kwiecinski, Chair, School Committee
- Marin Goldstein, School Committee Member, Parent
- Dayle Doiron, Business Manager
- Meredith Balise, Principal
- Dan Stern, Assistant Principal
- Kelly Melanson, Educator
- Christina Howard, Educator
- Ed Zuchowski, Educator
- Ben Hersey, Maple Parent
- Megan Kelley Bagg, Center/Pepin Parent
- Sue Colby, Admin. Asst. To the Superintendent

We want to share an update on what the district is working on. The “Work in Progress” draft (a document that is taking shape but not in final form), informed by survey results from families and staff, the latest guidance, and health information and research is coming along and will be shared after we collect more input. Next, we plan to meet with families and staff to gather more information. If you recall, the district is mandated to develop 3 overarching models: A full in person model, a hybrid model, and a fully remote model.

If you also recall, the goal has been and continues to be the safe return of our students and staff to school. We will begin the school year with a model, or models, that is the safest for our students and staff.

Let us break that down a little bit:

Health metrics will impact our decisions. MA DPH (Massachusetts Department of Public Health), the city Board of Health, and our School Committee will have input into the direction we move in. Some families

may be fully remote based on personal reasons, while we may also have a hybrid or in person model in place for those families that are able.

Flexibility is the name of the game. Health metrics and state guidance will dictate how we flow from one model to another during the year. Yes, we may hypothetically begin with a hybrid model and then move to a fully remote model, and maybe go back to a hybrid model all during the same year!

Some concrete steps that have happened:

Our custodial staff and building administration have been working on measuring classrooms and designing plans for a model to bring students and staff back in the building safely. We are using a 6 ft. Separation as our standard.

All PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), as identified in the DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) guidance, has been ordered for all (staff and students) for the first 12 weeks. (This includes masks and gloves – although families and staff may provide their own).

Our custodial staff is making other adjustments in buildings, related to plexiglass, cleaning protocols, ensuring windows are in working order for ventilation, signage in buildings, hand sanitizer stations, etc.

Building administrators are working on sample schedules for all 3 models. Our other committees: Wellness, Facilities and Operations, Special Populations, Staffing, and Instructional Planning are all making progress in specific areas.

I will be sharing a link at the beginning of next week to our website where we will list the members of each committee and summarize the work they have been doing.

- Technology – Chromebooks have been purchased for all students in grades 1-12.
- Technology support staff have been added.
- Technology trainers will be hired to support teacher training.
- Additional staff have been hired at the elementary level to support trauma and emotional health. (2 counseling positions)

Next week, our committee would like to invite you to attend a Parent/Guardian Forum for your child's level to address questions and hear some of your thoughts as we continue to prepare for the fall.

- PK-4 Family Forum – Tuesday, July 21, 2020, from 3:30-4:30 pm. (via Zoom)
- 5-8 Family Forum – Wednesday, July 22, 2020, from 3:30-4:30 pm (via Zoom)
- 9-12 Family Forum – Thursday, July 23, 2020, from 3:30-4:30 pm (via Zoom)

If you would like to register to attend one of these forums, please contact Sue Colby at [scolby@epsd.us](mailto:scolby@epsd.us) and she will forward a Zoom link to the meeting. I will be sending weekly "Logistical Updates" as the summer progresses to keep you informed and up to date.

On behalf of the Communication and Governance Committee, thank-you and stay well!

Dr. Allison LeClair, Superintendent