



HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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August 3, 2020

Dear HPS Community,

In my convocation speech to Hingham faculty back in August of 2019, I shared my vision of leadership, which is founded on service to others, collaboration, and unity in times of adversity. The past few months have provided more than a fair share of adversity and we are all under enormous strain—we miss connecting with our students, with our families and our community—but we must unite around the shared mission of ensuring that every HPS student safely achieves a full year of academic and personal growth in the year 2020-2021, while protecting the health and safety of students and educators. This is the mission that has led the work of the RRAC since June and will be the guiding principle that I follow as I lead this district through the upcoming school year.

Although knowing that the draft plan was subject to change based on a variety of conditions and updated information from DESE, local and state public health agencies, and others, I shared preliminary information with the community on Friday in an effort to keep the community abreast of the work being done on behalf of our students. From the many communications I have received over the weekend, it is clear that my communication generated many questions and concerns. Please know that I have listened and have given your feedback great consideration.

The recommended, detailed reopening plan will be submitted to the School Committee on Thursday evening and we are working diligently to have specifics and details for the community in advance of that meeting. The plan will include details such as suggested schedules for K-5, 6-8, and 9-12, recommended tools and best practices for live/synchronous remote learning, draft professional development plans, and information on how we arrived at decisions with regard to school reopening. We will also provide more clarity around the health and safety protocols we are implementing to protect both staff and students.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Respectfully,

Paul Austin, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools