



ADM Families,

I hope you are all well today and enjoying a beautiful summer day!

The purpose of this message is to continue to provide you with updates and information about ADM's Return to Learn Planning and the start of the 2020-21 school year. Since releasing our [Return To Learn Overview](#), [Draft Learning Plans](#), [FAQ](#), [COVID-19 website](#), and surveys on July 22, we have been working to continue to refine our plans, further develop building mitigation strategies, and respond to questions from our staff and the community. We continue to be encouraged by the positive and respectful dialogue and support from our community and staff during this challenging time.

Monday, July 27 Board Meeting Overview: The ADM Board of Education met in special session on Monday, July 27th. Below are updates about a few important topics discussed at the meeting.

- **Return To Learn Plans:** Travis Wilkins, Director of Innovative Learning and I provided the Board with an overview of our Return To Learn planning, mitigation strategies, and a summary of the parent and staff comprehensive survey results. After review and discussion, the Board indicated a strong preference to return to school using the on-site learning plan. A special meeting has been scheduled for August 3, where the Board will consider a recommendation to begin the 2020-21 school year using the on-site learning plan.
 - **Students Unable To Attend On-Site:** ADM families may choose not to have their student(s) learn on-site during the 2020-21 school year. This option is intended to support families that have health and safety issues or other family circumstances related to COVID-19. Families wanting this option will enroll their student(s) for remote learning for a nine-week period. Information about how to enroll in this option will be provided after the Board meeting on August 3rd. In the meantime, parents wanting to explore this option are encouraged to review page 9-11 of [ADM's Return To Learn Overview](#) document for more information.
- **District Finances:** The Board reviewed a district financial overview prepared by Nancy Gee, which shared the financial impact of the school closure during the 2019-20 school year and the estimated expenses for staffing and mitigation supplies for the 2020-21 school year. While the COVID-19 pandemic has and is expected to continue having a significant fiscal impact on the district, the overall message is that we are in good financial health even when taking into account the already budgeted costs to open and staff a new building for the 2021-22 school year.
- **Nursing:** The Board approved a recommendation to add a full-time nurse position at the High School for the 2020-21 school year. The new position will help meet a need that existed prior to COVID-19, as ADM currently has one nurse serving over 1000 students between the Middle School and High School buildings. This position now provides for a nurse at each ADM building and will provide greater flexibility to maintain a nurse on each ADM campus should a nurse be ill or quarantined as a result of the COVID-19 virus.
- **Transportation:** The Board also discussed possible changes to district provided transportation for students. ADM's current practice is to transport all students regardless of the distance from their home to school. Iowa Code only requires that schools transport K-8 students that live more than two miles and 9-12 students that live more than three miles from the school designated for attendance. In the

proposed change, ADM would only transport PK-5 students that live more than a half mile and 6-12 students that live more than one mile from the designated school for attendance. Students that live within the impacted areas but that have a district identified hazard which prevent students from getting to school safely would be provided bus transportation. This change would decrease bus ridership with a goal of seating only 2 students per seat to the greatest extent possible to support health and safety mitigation efforts. We anticipate the Board considering this possible change on the August 3 special meeting.

- **Parent Transportation:** ADM families are encouraged to provide students with transportation to and from school to reduce capacity levels on buses. Please review page 7 of [ADM's Return To Learn Overview](#) document for more information about transportation.
- **Full Time Substitute Teachers:** The Board also discussed the possibility of hiring four full time substitute teachers for the 2020-21 school year. Over the past few years, all metro schools have experienced a substitute teacher shortage. This shortage is only anticipated to increase due to COVID-19. The addition of a full time substitute teacher in each would provide added support for each building in the procurement of substitute teachers during the school year.

Parent RTL Comprehensive Survey Data: ([View Parent Survey Results Summary](#))

Over 1000 households, representing over 1600 students participated in the comprehensive RTL parent survey. In general, the majority of parents feel moderately or very safe about sending their students to school for the 2020-21 school year. 60.6% of parents preferred starting the school year on August 24, 2020, with the on-site learning plan, while 39.4% indicated a preference to start the year using the hybrid learning plan. When asked if ADM started the year with on-site learning, if parents would send their student to school, 85.3% of families indicated yes and 14.7% indicated no. When asked if ADM started the year with hybrid learning, if parents would send their student to school, 91.8% of families indicated yes and 8.2% indicated no. This data along with the staff data was reviewed by the Board during the July 27 Board meeting. Please use the link above to review the full parent survey summary.

Staff RTL Comprehensive Survey Data: ([View Staff Survey Results Summary](#))

127 certified and 65 classified staff members participated in the comprehensive RTL staff survey. In general, the majority of certified and classified staff feel moderately safe or very safe about returning to work during the 2020-21 school year. 61.4% of certified staff preferred starting the school year on August 24, 2020, with the hybrid learning plan, while 38.6% indicated a preference to start the year using the on-site learning plan. Classified staff indicated that 52.3% preferred starting the school year with the hybrid learning plan while 47.7% preferred starting the year with the on-site plan. When asked about how safe teachers felt about returning to work using the on-site learning plan, 45.7% of teachers indicated feeling moderately or very safe, while 38.6% of teachers indicated feeling moderately unsafe or very unsafe. This data along with the parent data was reviewed by the Board during the July 27 Board meeting. Please use the link above to review the full staff survey summary.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me at 515-993-4283 ext. 7050 or gdufoe@adm.k12.ia.us to reach out with questions or feedback.

Have a great rest of your week!

Greg