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Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 1:47 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Laura Saatzer <laura.saatzer@spps.org>; David Watkins <david.watkins@spps.org>; Kaying Thao <kaying.thao@spps.org>; Barbara Goodman <barb.goodman@spps.org>

Subject: Vento SPFE - Letter to SPPS BOE

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your concerns as we prepare to transition into Stage 2 Hybrid. As I read your letter, I am continually reminded of the challenges and opportunities in front of us. In my 15+ years in SPPS, I've learned many lessons, but one of the most powerful is understanding the power and impact of what the collective whole can accomplish when we work together. It will be all of our jobs to model new routines and procedures for our students and communicate what hybrid instruction will look like for students and their families.

As we prepare for students to return to on-site learning in a hybrid model, we are working with each of our leaders to ensure that all building routines are adjusted to ensure the safest learning environment possible. As site-specific plans are developed, our actions will be guided by the Minnesota Department of Education Hybrid Learning Requirements:

- Social distancing of 6 feet at all times in school buildings
- School facilities at 50% capacity
- Transportation vehicles at 50% capacity
- Sufficient staffing levels to meet the requirements of the model
- Face covering per Governor's [Executive Order 20-81](#)
- PPE for direct support student services
- Build routines of hygiene education and practices
- Daily cleaning plus frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces throughout the day
- Building-level COVID-19 coordinator, with optional student counterpart
- Limit nonessential visitors/volunteers/external groups
- Discontinue large group activities that do not allow for social distancing
- Monitor and exclude individuals for illness

Regarding your concerns around ventilation status and remediation in our buildings, many steps are being taken to ensure a safe return to school. Ensuring improved ventilation, implementing daily sanitation routines, and posting safety reminders throughout schools will be paramount. More specifically, here are some of the other ways SPPS is preparing our buildings for in-person learning:

- Changed the filters in building mechanical systems to a MERV rating of 11, meaning the filters catch 10 times more COVID-sized particles during air circulation. The programming for air handlers will also be adjusted to run extended hours to increase outside air ventilation.
- Adjusting classroom layouts to keep students socially distanced while learning

- Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes are available in every classroom and throughout each building
- Created isolation spaces for people if they start to present COVID-like symptoms while on site
- Created touchless meal service and socially distanced eating areas
- Have PPE, including face coverings, both cloth and disposable, gloves, and shields and gowns as needed, available for every staff and student
- Working to hire and train 30% more custodial staff for Stage 1 and Stage 2 sites to keep schools clean and disinfected
- Placed signs to remind people how to stay safe and maintain social distancing in our buildings. Signage will also allow for managing traffic flow in common spaces in schools.
- Placed floor decals in main offices and cafeterias to show people where to stand to maintain social distancing. Decals are also being placed on tables in cafeterias to show students where to sit to maintain social distancing.
- Will provide every student with a water bottle to minimize the amount of times they need to use hydration stations
- Installing acrylic dividers in every public-facing location such as main office spaces
- Encouraging families and community members not to enter buildings whenever possible
- Created isolation rooms and immediate disinfection procedures in every building to ensure that if anyone develops symptoms or needs to be isolated, we have clean isolated spaces available

I have included our Facilities Director, Tom Parent on this email to fill in any gaps and speak to the Facilities Master Plan process within SPPS.

As this global pandemic presents us with many unknowns, please know that we are committed to working together and sharing accurate information. I have included a link below that contains additional information regarding our Reopen Plan and ask that you continue to work with and through Principal Saatzer to get your questions answered.

<https://www.spps.org/fallplanning2020>

Be well,
Andrew



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