September 10, 2020

To our Spotswood Educational Family,

On August 19, after a collaborative assessment of the conditions needed to return to in-person instruction outlined within Executive Order 175, we announced that our district would delay the implementation of our hybrid model until Monday, September 21, 2020.

Specifically, this delay was based on our inability to secure required operational equipment for our first day of school due to backorder and order cancellation but also foreshadowed other concerns, such as a change of direction from the Governor, further backorder/order cancellation, critical operations failure, inability to adequately supervise students within our buildings, the need to secure a High School Nurse, and/or a rise in school-based or community cases of Covid-19.

Today, unfortunately, our concerns were realized as we were notified that one of our required operational equipment needs (MERV 13 air filters), guaranteed for delivery on September 11, has been delayed for an additional month - thereby effectively delaying the implementation of our hybrid model until mid-October, at the earliest.

While we will continue to work to find solutions for this specific issue as quickly as possible, we do not want to take the chance of this situation recurring again and again. Therefore, to provide needed consistency to our educational community, we are announcing the conditional implementation of our hybrid model beginning the first day of the 2nd Marking Period - Thursday, November 12, 2020.

With that said, while providing consistency, we also must maintain our commitment to return to in-person instruction as outlined within Executive Order 175 as soon as possible. As such, after discussion with our County Superintendent, it is our intent, should we receive our required operational equipment prior to Thursday, November 12, 2020, we will begin the implementation of our hybrid model on the first Monday following 5 days of notification to our educational community after the installation of the MERV 13 air filters in our HVAC Units. As an example, if our filters arrive on October 2nd and are installed by October 6th, hybrid instruction will begin on Monday, October 12, 2020.

Thank you and more detailed information will follow shortly,

Graham Peabody
Superintendent
Spotswood Public Schools