April 16, 2020

Dear Nampa School District Staff, Parents and Guardians,

We are writing today to make sure you are aware of the decision that was made today at the State Board of Education. As a reminder, the SBOE extended the “soft close” of schools until the end of our school year. However, they were going to produce a list of requirements that, if met, would allow a school district to reopen its campuses to students before the end of the school year. Today, they approved some minimum re-entry criteria, which we have summarized below.

**Idaho State Board of Education Minimum Re-entry Criteria:**

1. No statewide or local social distancing restrictions, including stay-home orders or extensive closures of businesses, are in place.
2. The peak of the state infection curve has passed, as determined by the State Department of Health and Welfare, and a minimum of 14 days have passed from the identified peak. In those instances where local community spread has occurred, the local infection curve will be evaluated for determining the 14 consecutive days.
3. Approval by the local public health district, after review of school district and charter school cleaning and disinfection protocols.
4. Re-entry plan approved by the local board of trustees identifying minimum school protocols including the following:
   a. Cleaning and disinfection protocols.
   b. Identify and plan for vulnerable staff and students with a special emphasis on people over age 60 and those who are medically vulnerable.
   c. Identify and plan for staff duties that require close contact.
   d. Absenteeism plan for staff and students whose parents do not feel comfortable returning their student to school and for students who show symptoms of the coronavirus.
   e. Communications plan for informing parents and staff of the school district and charter school response plans, protocols, and policies to manage the impact of the coronavirus.
   f. Verify point of contact for each school district and charter school for effective communication and collaboration with the local public health officials.
   g. Reopening plans are reviewed in consultation with local public health officials.

These re-entry criteria are subject to change in order to adapt to changing circumstances. Additional criteria will be developed for a fall start of the school year, based on conditions at the time.

**So, what does this mean for Nampa School District?**
Although the first two criteria are beyond our control, we have been and will continue to work on the district protocols. Many of these protocols are already in place and we are already implementing them (cleaning, disinfection, plans for vulnerable populations, absenteeism, communication, and connections with community health officials).

Although we do NOT believe that we will be able to meet the first two criteria to return students to campuses before the end of the year and we are planning to remain wholly online and remote in our education delivery through the end of our school year, we continue to monitor all these indicators.

So, for now, there are no changes to our direction or current plans.

Graduation Plans.

This important topic has been the subject of many discussions over the past week. We want to thank our parents and seniors (over 1,000 of them) who participated in our survey. After considering the results of the survey, here is our tentative plan. (Tentative because nothing seems predictable at this time!)

1. Plan A – We will plan a traditional graduation ceremony on our original dates in the Idaho Center (UHS in the NNU Brandt Center). Because it is very likely that this will not happen as planned, if we cannot graduate on our original dates in the Idaho Center/Brandt Center, each high school will plan a senior celebration (not graduation) for that date. High schools will plan with their graduation committee to determine the nature of that senior celebration.
   - Columbia High School: Friday, May 22
   - Nampa High School: Wednesday, May 20
   - Skyview High School: Tuesday, May 19
   - Union High School: Thursday, May 21

2. Plan B – We are working on securing a venue for the week of June 8-12 for high schools to have a traditional, face-to-face graduation ceremony. If we are unable to have the graduation on this date, we will just cancel these ceremonies.

3. Plan C – We are working on securing a venue for the last week of June or first week of July. If, on this third attempt, we are unable to graduate with a traditional ceremony, we will continue with a virtual graduation ceremony on that date.

This decision will allow our high schools to proceed with their planning. We will update plans about two weeks before the “go” date if we have the information we need to do that. The survey results showed that a majority of parents and students prefer a face-to-face graduation at a later date in lieu of a virtual ceremony. We will work to honor that.

We will announce the dates for Plans B and C as soon as we have secured them so that families can make tentative arrangements. We tentatively plan on live streaming the graduation ceremony, regardless if it is held in May or June. Many of our students will have family and
friends who will not be able to travel to attend either ceremony and we want them to be able to celebrate with our seniors.

We love our senior class and we hope that this decision will honor their wishes in this uncertain time where new traditions can begin.

Dr. Paula Kellerer