Information Sheet – 6/12/2020- Board of Trustees Meeting

TO: Board of Trustees Item: 5.2

FR: Jim Bridges

DATE: June 12, 2020

RE: Safe Reopening of Schools 2020/2021

In May, the District held two staff webinars to discuss what was known at the time about reopening schools and scenarios the district was planning for. Following the webinars two follow up surveys were sent out with an over 60 percent response rate. A parent/guardian survey was sent out at the end of the school year to gather parent input on options for reopening schools and improving distance learning if it was needed in the future. The parent/guardian survey had over a 50 percent response rate. Each of the surveys showed that the preferred option for reopening schools was a traditional school model with increased health/safety precautions. Forty-seven percent of parents preferred a traditional model, while 28 percent preferred a hybrid model of traditional and distance learning. The other 25 percent preferred a distance learning or independent study model. Forty percent of staff preferred a traditional model, while 36 percent preferred distance learning. The remaining 25 percent preferred a hybrid model.

Since the surveys were conducted, the California Department of Public Health, California Department of Education, and San Joaquin County Public Health Services have all come out with guidelines for reopening schools. Throughout the closures, the county superintendents have met regularly to plan for the reopening of schools. The current plan for most school districts in San Joaquin and all of Stanislaus counties is to return in a traditional model while offering some sort of independent study program for students with health concerns or based upon family preference.

The JSD leadership team has met and discussed the safe reopening of schools for the past two months. The team believes the best education is provided when students are in class on a regular basis. Based upon the parent survey which showed that 75 percent of students would return in a traditional model, while up to 25 percent of students would choose an independent study model, the District believes it can meet the social distancing requirements provided by San Joaquin County Public Health Services.

Recommended Action:

1. Administration will continue to monitor this ever evolving situation and if there are any changes to the current reopening guidance, and will schedule an emergency board meeting over the summer to revisit these recommendations.

2. Provide all parents with two choices for their students to return to school in August.
    a. Return to school in a traditional model five days per week with additional health/safety precautions. Students would spend the first two weeks of school in a hybrid model to allow students, parents, teachers, and administrators time to get used to the new health/safety guidelines before having all students attend on the same day. The new guidelines have never been tried in a school setting and will take some adjustment and fine tuning which will be safer for everyone if class sizes are smaller.
    b. Enroll in the Jefferson Virtual Academy online independent study program.

3. Revise the distance learning program based upon staff, parent and administrator feedback in case it becomes necessary to return all students to a distance learning model.

Safe Reopening of Schools 2020/2021

JEFFERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT
LEARNING TODAY...LEADING TOMORROW

Traditional Schedule with Precautions

- August 11th – August 21st: Students would be phased back into school in an A/B Hybrid Model
  - ✓ Students will attend school in-person two days a week, virtually two days a week on a Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday schedule.
  - ✓ Wednesday would be reserved as a more flexible, virtual check-in day for teachers and students, and/or teacher prep and lesson design. Only staff would be on campus on Wednesdays.
  - ✓ This would allow the staff to educate and practice safety procedures with half of the students before returning all students to campus.
- August 24th: Students return to Traditional Schedule with increased precautions
  - ✓ Students will return to school Monday-Friday with a normal schedule, but following the San Joaquin County Public Health Services guidelines for reopening schools.

Jefferson Virtual Academy – Online Independent Study

- We understand that some parents may have concerns about sending their children back to school in a traditional fashion.
  - ✓ JVA will be a 100% online independent study with once weekly Zoom check-in appointments with your child's teacher(s).
  - ✓ This option provides a clearly outlined curriculum for parents who are interested in continuing with an online learning model and having their child learn at home.
  - ✓ JSD will provide the Google Chromebook device and technology support to assist with your student's learning needs.

Distance Learning

- The District learned a lot from the Distance Learning provided at the end of the year. Based upon feedback from staff, parents, and administrators the following changes will be made to Distance Learning in the event the District must close again during the 2020/2021 school year.
  - ✓ Take daily attendance
  - ✓ Provide more direct instruction by classroom teachers
  - ✓ Utilize traditional grading
  - ✓ Require assignments to be turned in more regularly
  - ✓ Utilize one digital curriculum platform instead of one per content area
  - ✓ Provide printed materials to those families that need them
  - ✓ Provide WIFI hotspots to families in need