Portola Valley School District

Roberta Zarea, Superintendent

June 1, 2020

Dear PVSD Community,

As the 2019-2020 school year comes to a close, it is difficult to put into words the pride I have for the PVSD community. Our teachers, staff, administrators, students, and parents have shown resilience and courage during these uncertain times in an unprecedented crisis.

As you know, there are many unanswered questions about the next school year. Our district administrators have been thoroughly immersed in researching, learning, and thoughtfully evaluating our options for reopening our schools, within the requirements set forth by the SMC Health Officer. While we are all hoping for a return to regular school life in the fall, our path forward remains uncertain for now.

To that end, I wanted to let you know that I participate in the SMC Office of Education's Pandemic Recovery Planning Committee, composed of SMC superintendents and administrators. In consultation with SMC Public Health Officer Dr. Scott Morrow, we have produced a Pandemic Recovery Plan for Schools Framework which provides school leaders with the health, education, and legal guidance needed to develop local plans for the safe reopening of school campuses in San Mateo County.

The Pandemic Recovery Plan for Schools is centered on the <u>Four Pillars: Health and Hygiene, Face Coverings, Physical Distancing, and Limiting Gatherings</u>. The behaviors and actions required in the Four Pillars are grounded in science and represent best practices in preventing the spread of communicable disease. The Four Pillars also provide an opportunity to create new school norms that can improve health and safety for all members of the school community and therefore can help to improve academic, social, and emotional outcomes for all students. If fully and properly addressed in a school reopening plan and adhered to in daily practice, these behaviors can mitigate the risk of community spread within a school so that education can continue with integrity while risk of contracting the disease is reduced. Please stay tuned for more information.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the 30 parents and 26 staff members who expressed interest in participating in **PVSD's Pandemic Response Working Group (Schools Reopening Committee)**. From that talented pool of people, we selected a group of 24 committed and competent staff and parents who will consider, discuss, and provide input into our district's reopening draft plans for recommendation to our Board of Trustees:

Ormondale Staff: Kristin Bouman, Linda Clark, Shenny Covotta, Wayne Rickert, Denise Schectman, Lynette Hovland

Corte Madera Staff: John Davenport, Dan Flahaven, Juliet Green, Jenny Lebsack, Susan Outland, Kristen Shima

District Office Staff & Board Member: Marcus Bonfiglio, Brooke Day, Abbe Keane, Adam Lint, Karen Lucian, Connie Ngo, Roberta Zarea

PVSD Parents: Kim Cashin, Jackie Garcia, Susan McLaughlin, Ashvin Sangoram, Amod Setlur, Nelly Wolfson

We have also convened a **Distance Learning Redesign Working Group**, composed of our qualified and capable educators: Sherry Andrighetto, Kimber Trefero, Daphna Woolfe, Silvia Martinez, Sarrie Paguirigan, Crissy Untrecht, Tiffany Hsieh, Brigid Horgan, Teresa Richard, Cassie Vanover, and our instructional leaders (administrators). I also want to extend my appreciation to these people for their commitment to developing a fluid, high quality, and rigorous learning ecosystem personalized for the needs of our district. I thank our staff in advance for their generous gift of time and energy over the next several months.

As you can see, PVSD is taking a thoughtful approach to decision-making so that we can plan for our students' academic needs as well as the safety and well-being of our students and staff. As our working groups learn more in the coming weeks, we will reach out with updates and opportunities to provide input.

At this time, we are planning the following:

- **Week of June 1**: Student and Parent Surveys
- **W June 3** @ 8:30 - 9:15 am CMS Virtual Parent Chat with Superintendent (Join Zoom Meeting ID: 97037324733; Password: 469194)
- **Th June 4** @ 8:30 - 9:15 am Ormondale Virtual Parent Chat with Superintendent (Join Zoom Meeting ID: 95374716685; Password: 690735)
- **F June 5**: Last day of live instruction for students
- **Week of June 8**: Learning will continue to take place for students. *(Note: Teachers will work in their classes to break down their rooms, pull out all items from the desks, bag them up for students, and clear out their rooms to prepare for cleaning and disinfecting, and to maximize the space for next year for social distancing. They will also meet for transitional/ vertical team meetings, assign class placements for next year, work in grade level teams to prepare for the shut down of school, and prepare for reopening for next year.)* Your site principal has provided site-specific end-of-school year information.
- **June 11**: Last day of school
- **June 15**: Academic Summer School and Extended School Year starts (ends on June 10)
- **June 17**: The Pandemic Recovery Working Group will present an update of draft reopening recommendations to the Board of Trustees at the Board's Regular meeting
- **July 16**: The Board of Trustees will take action on the District's Reopening Plan during a Special Board Meeting
- **August 13**: First day of staff "reopening safety boot camp"
- **August 19**: First day of school for students

I know that the uncertainty of our times is difficult, and I wish we had answers to all of your questions at this time, but I am convinced this deliberate approach will allow us to move forward in the most responsible way, under the guidelines set forth by the SMC Health Officer and the SMCOE Framework. Please be on the lookout for more information in July. If you have any questions, reach out to me at rzarea@pvsd.net. I hope this summer brings opportunities for relaxation and rejuvenation to you and your family!

Warm Regards,

Roberta Zarea, Superintendent