



Community Update 2: Virtual Town Hall Meetings

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To: superintendent@bsdvt.org

July 8, 2020

Greetings BSD Community,

Thank you so much for the warm welcome to the district this past week. I am grateful for all of the well wishes and I am enjoying the summer months in Burlington.

Our team is deep in the planning phase for reopening schools in the fall. As you know, this is a complex decision and we are thankful for your engagement. We received over 1,200 responses on our family survey and over 600 on our teacher survey. We are currently reviewing this data and have found helpful feedback that will inform our planning process. The decision is not yet complete.

We are hosting two virtual Town Hall Meetings next week where we will discuss results from last week's surveys and provide an overview of reopening models that are currently under consideration. We are also staying on top of guidance from state and national health experts. Given the rapidly changing nature of the guidance and the impact this has on school opening models, we are aiming to communicate a decision for reopening by August 6 so we have the most up-to-date information.

Lastly, I had the great joy of visiting two of our summer learning programs this week. Students and educators are currently in school together now, and it was so heartening to see our committed educators and our wonderful students working together again. The summer programs have allowed us the opportunity to practice health screenings, mask-wearing, distancing, and cleaning in these new conditions and it is going very well. This experience gives me great optimism for the start of the school year.

Below are the key updates of the week:

- **School Reopening Town Hall Meeting (Families)** — On **July 15 at 7 p.m.**, families will have further opportunity to participate in the conversation around reopening schools. Families will hear directly from leaders and will be able to ask questions and voice concerns.
 - Tune in via this Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84986190425>
 - Call in at: +1 646 558 8656
 - Watch live on BSD Facebook and Youtube pages
- **School Reopening Town Hall Meeting (Staff)** — On **July 16 at 7 p.m.**, district leaders will discuss results from the staff reopening survey and staff will be able to share their thoughts and concerns.
 - Tune in via this Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86987495067>
 - Call in at: +1 646 558 8656
 - Watch live on BSD Facebook and Youtube pages
- **Summer Meals Update** — Wednesday, July 15 will be the last day that meals will be distributed at **Champlain Elementary School** and **North Gate Apartments**. All families picking up meals at those sites will be given information on other nearby meal sites that will continue to provide meals throughout the summer. The full schedule and list of food distribution locations can be found at our [website](#).
- Joint message from Andrew Styles (BEA,) Dwight Brown (AFSCME), and Tom Flanagan (BSD):
 - We are working together to ensure we are coordinated, communicating openly, and working together on school reopening. We know reopening will be challenging; our goal is to ensure all students and staff are safe and ready for schools to open this Fall, and we know we can do this if we work together!

As we prepare to head back to school in the fall, check out these tips from BSD COVID-19 Coordinator and School Nurse, Rebecca McCray, attached here: "[10 Things Parents Can Do Before School Starts](#)."

Stay safe and healthy,
Superintendent Tom Flanagan

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