

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*Patrick A. Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent of Schools*

November 13, 2020

Dear LPS Families,

First and foremost, I want to express my deep gratitude for your continued cooperation. We continue to proceed and progress in uniquely challenging times. Forward progress happens in large part depending on the extent to which the community stays together. I appreciate our partnership during these times. **I am writing to inform you that last night, the Lynn School Committee approved a proposal to continue with remote learning until February 5, 2021.** The proposal also includes an intent to provide in-person learning for high needs special education students and those with limited formal or interrupted education beginning January 19, 2021.

I take no pleasure in extending remote learning. I know full well the impact that this approach has on students and families alike. Further, I continue to believe deeply in the research that places in-person learning and all of the related benefits over virtual learning. That said, the current context of surging positive COVID-19 cases among school age children and adults alike in our community has created a situation that makes the introduction of an in-person hybrid schedule for all students inappropriate. Furthermore, in our community, an increase in positive COVID-19 cases following holidays carries with it an unfortunate predictability. The decision to remain in remote learning until February 5th is based on the current state of affairs in Lynn as well as the medical community's prediction for the coming weeks. This and all decisions are always anchored in what we believe creates the safest conditions for students and staff.

The groups of students who are invited to begin receiving in person instruction on January 19th are those whose needs we struggle to meet the most in the remote learning format. The selection of these groups is not at all intended to marginalize the experiences or needs of other students or to suggest that these are the only students for whom the remote learning is difficult. The students invited for in-person learning are those whose learning and growth needs cannot be met in remote learning, regardless of the skill set or technological approach. The start date of January 19th was selected to allow for any holiday-related surges to decrease before students return. Families with students in these programs will receive communication under separate cover.

We have certainly come a long way with respect to facilitating student learning and growth in remote fashion and we will continue to work to provide the most optimal and impactful approaches to remote teaching and learning. Our partnership means a lot and thus I welcome you to be in touch with staff at your student's school to answer any questions or discuss any necessary supports. I will continue to keep the lines of communication open. **I will host a Virtual Town Hall for all families on December 2, 2020 at 6 p.m.** Links for this event will be shared on Tuesday, December 1st.

Yours in partnership,

Patrick Tutwiler, PhD