

Dear Weston School Community,

I am writing to summarize my presentation at yesterday's School Committee Meeting about reopening schools this spring. I want to extend a big thank you to all who have communicated with me over the last several months regarding school reopening. I also want to share appreciation for the over 1,000 responses we received from the survey which we sent out before vacation. Your survey responses and communications were a big reason that led to our proposal to reopen the Middle and High School to all students everyday this spring. We also considered new guidance from the CDC and from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, current scientific research, the dropping positive COVID rates across the state and the district, and the work of teachers and administrators within our district.

Below are the highlights of the school reopening proposal:

- **Monday March 1, 2021** -- the High School day (schedule) will be extended to 8:30-1:00.
- **Wednesday March 3, 2021** -- High School and Middle School students will begin attending school in person on alternate Wednesdays, alternating by the existing cohorts.
- **Monday March 15, 2021** -- Middle School and High School students will attend school five days a week, 8:30 - 1:00. Still have grab-and-go lunches at the end of the school day.
- **Monday April 5, 2021** -- The elementary school day will be extended to 8:00-2:20. Lunches will be served.

Full approval of the plan will require working closely with the Weston Board of Health and the Weston Emergency Management Team. The proposal also must be approved by the Weston Educators Association (WEA). We have been in continuous talks with the WEA since last March and educators have bargained in good faith throughout the pandemic. WEA members have been working tremendously hard on behalf of children to provide a continuous educational experience for the children of Weston Public Schools.

We are committed to maintaining our strong Remote Learning Academy program, PK-12, through the end of the school year. We understand that some students and families may be uncomfortable with the increased number of students in the Middle and High schools starting on March 15, and the serving of lunches at the elementary schools starting on April 5. We will provide an opportunity for Hybrid families to move your children to Remote Learning Academy if you so choose. Please expect a follow-up communication early next week with more details.

We have much work to do and I remain hopeful that we will be able to maintain the timeline set forth and get the children and youth of Weston into school for more in-person learning. Thank you again for your patience, collaboration, and understanding during this very challenging time.

Best,

Dr. Midge Connolly