To: Seekonk School Committee
From: Dr. Rich Drolet, Superintendent of Schools
Date: August 10, 2020
Re: Superintendent’s Update

More DESE Guidance
On July 24th, DESE released more information for Massachusetts public school districts to refer to: Fall Remote Learning Guidance as well as Guidance for Courses Requiring Additional Safety Considerations for Fall 2020 (Chorus/Band/Theater/Dance/Visual Arts, and Physical Education). In addition, on July 22nd DESE shared their Fall Reopening Facilities and Operations Guidance and Fall Reopening K-12 Transportation Guidance. Our district leadership team and principals continue to read, learn about, and collaborate with each concerning new guidance that is released every 1-2 weeks.

Upcoming MASC/MASS Event: School Reopening Conversation with Commissioner Jeffrey Riley
On August 11th at 1 PM Commissioner Riley will discuss with School Committees “What Back to School will Look Like in Massachusetts.” The Commissioner will discuss back-to-school alternatives and strategies for ensuring that the new year of teaching and learning can be managed safely and effectively, while keeping students on track and engaged. Registration is open to Massachusetts School Committee members, superintendents, and school committee/superintendent secretaries and administrative assistants.

Parent/Guardian and Staff Surveys
This week we will send out one more survey for both parents/guardians and also staff. The parent/guardian survey will focus on soliciting information from parents/guardians who may be interested in our Virtual Learning Academy (VLA) for their students (should they choose to not send their children to school in September under our proposed hybrid model). Should parents choose not to take advantage of our Virtual Learning Academy option, and they still want to educate their children at home outside of our public school plans, Assistant Superintendent Waddicor will explain to parents/guardians on a case-by-case basis how they should submit their required homeschooling plans (these students would also be unenrolled from our district). We anticipate about 10-15% of our parents/guardians will choose the Virtual Learning Academy. The staff survey will focus on soliciting information about any staff members who may choose to
not return to work in September - this is important for us to plan for the 2020-2021 school year. These situations will again be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. We also anticipate about 10-15% of staff members may choose not to return to work in September.

**Next Parent/Guardian Communication**

Tomorrow I will send out this next family and staff communication to explain and summarize our SPS Comprehensive Return-to-School Plan which will be published on our website tomorrow. I am doing this because I do not think everyone will read our comprehensive plan (it’s long!), and this communication also summarizes the situation we are in (submitting readiness for all 3 plans to DESE - full in-person, hybrid, and full remote), while also explaining the basic parameters outlined in our choice to start school - which is the hybrid model (partial in-person learning and partial remote learning).