

**THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
November 18, 2020**

Three Rivers School District Board of Directors met virtually via Zoom for the regular board meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

PRESENT

Jennifer Johnstun, Board Chair
Paul Kelly, Board Vice Chair
Jenn Searle, Board Member
Rich Halsted, Board Member
Danny York, Board Member

Dave Valenzuela, Superintendent
Casey Alderson, Director
Stephanie Allen-Hart, Director
Jessica Durrant, Director
Shelly Quick, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Johnstun called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked Superintendent Valenzuela to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call vote was taken, and all board members were present.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. York seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE

Mr. Kelly visited Fort Vannoy on Monday. It was a great experience. He had an opportunity to talk to some staff and principal Alicia Timbs. It was great to see the teachers so excited to have their kids back! He thanked all of our staff for welcoming kids back. Mr. York shared that he was happy to see the planned course statement for Veterinary Medicine. That could open up opportunities for a lot of kids. Mr. Halsted gave a shout out to Director Durrant and our principals at the elementary schools. They did an awesome video about standard based report cards. He believes it will be a real game changer for the teacher parent interface. He also shared that it is so great, the work that has been done at the District Office, to get Jackson County included on opening schools to include Applegate School. He expressed his sincere appreciation to Director Allen-Hart. Ms. Searle shared that this week has definitely presented us with some new challenges in the Illinois Valley schools and she recognized and thanked all of the staff, teachers, parents and kids for the flexibility and the efforts they have put in this week to help keep the kids safe, healthy and in school. Superintendent Valenzuela shared that from the District Leadership Team and himself, he recognized the efforts at the building level to make this stuff work. They were in tears because they are so happy to have the kids back at school. It has been no small effort on their part to make sure it has been a successful and positive experience. There is a lot of fear and apprehension and they are doing a fabulous job of making sure it's a great experience for those students and the parents. He then thanked our teachers, our Online Learning Advisory Committee (OLAC), they were an integral part of making sure we were thinking about the right things in bringing students back. Lastly, he recognized the district's collaboration with the certified and classified unions. They have been really great partners in this effort. They have responsibilities to their members to make sure everything is safe and ready to roll. They have given us some great ideas that we have been able to incorporate in to reopening. Ms. Johnstun shared that today was the first day of school at her house! It was her daughter's first real day of high school. She had a great day at school! She recognized that this didn't happen without a lot of effort in a quick period of time from all involved. She also shared that she is really happy that Jenn Searle has joined the board. She is grateful to have Jenn here.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- *First day with K-12 Onsite* – The 4th and 5th graders returned to onsite this week. Kids are doing great wearing masks and excited to be there. Today was also a soft start for 6th-12th grade students. He shared pictures of the students and teachers in classrooms. He explained how the soft start is working to show them how to flow around the building and how they enter and exit the classrooms. We want to make sure the students understand the safety protocols that are put in place for them and the staff. Next Monday and Tuesday will be used for professional development. This will enable staff to give us feedback on what worked really well and what did not so we can make any necessary adjustments. On the 30th we are off and running and work back towards some kind of normalcy, structure and things the students can count on. We are also working to supply students with food to take home. We have had a lot of positive feedback – parents are grateful and excited! There were a lot of first day of school pics on social media. He is grateful to have the team that we have at Three Rivers. It's a huge mountain that we had to climb and wouldn't do it with any other team.
- *Stumbling blocks* – Some of our schools have issues to deal with. Fleming has no heat and we are in the process of replacing a boiler so there start up schedule has been altered a bit. Our maintenance crews are working hard to solve the problems. We have also had some positive COVID cases in our schools. At Evergreen we had one classroom and at Illinois Valley High School had multiple cases with IV staff. We knew that we would see cases, but we are putting in measures that make our schools, with a controlled environment, safer for students and staff to be in than not being there. Our students really needed what they got today. We are providing a lifeline for our students. He appreciates the support the board has given him and the team to make all of this stuff happen. We still have TVOS for those families that are not ready to return to campus. He asked families to pay attention to the procedures we are putting in place and to cooperate with the 3W's: wash your hands, wear your face covering and watch your distance. He then read a letter from Madrona principal Kellie Lovell, who is a parent and an administrator sharing the positive experience of children returning to school.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items in the consent agenda will be approved by a single motion unless a member of the Board or the Superintendent requests that an item or items be removed and voted upon separately.

- Routine Personnel Items – November 2020
- Athletic Coaches – November 2020
- Draft Minutes of previous meetings:
 - Board Regular Session – October 21, 2020
- Grant Request (1)
- Board Policies
 - GBN/JBA – *Sexual Harassment*
 - JFCF – *Hazing, Harassment, Intimidation, bullying, Cyberbullying, Teen Dating Violence or Domestic Violence-Student*
 - JHH – *Student Suicide Prevention*
 - JHCC – *Communicable Diseases – Students*
 - JHCC-AR* – *Communicable Diseases - Students*
 - GBEB – *Communicable Diseases – Staff*

*Administrative regulation that is required to be board-adopted
- Mr. York made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Halsted seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

- Superintendent Valenzuela acknowledged the following public comments were received via email and forwarded on to the board members:
 - Brenda Tall, Lincoln Savage MS Teacher – Concerned about recent discussions around live streaming to an at-home group while simultaneously teaching to an in-class group.

- Kimberly DeForest, Lincoln Savage MS Teacher – Concerned the district is rushing into bringing students back on campus.
- Jennifer Parsons, Lincoln Savage MS Teacher - Shared some concerns relating to the reopening of schools in the district.
- Lacey Lafayette Fox – Lincoln Savage MS Teacher – Shared concerns about recent discussion around continuing with CDL to an at-home group while simultaneously teaching to an in-class hybrid group.
- Lacey Lafayette Fox – Lincoln Savage MS Teacher – Shared some concerns relating to the reopening of schools in the Three Rivers School District.
- Board Chair Johnstun thanked those that provided comments and reiterated that all of these comments have been shared with all of the board members to read and process.

REPORTS – NO ACTION

- Operational Updates – District Accountant Lisa Cross
 - *PERS* – Back in 2019 SB 1049 included reforms to the PERS system that were aimed at reducing the unfunded actuarial liability. Those reforms included four major items:
 - No hours limitation for retirees after they separate from employment.
 - Extended the amortization of the liability period – stretched it out several more years.
 - Cap on the final salaries - \$195,000
 - Redirection of IAP contributions into a stability fund. This will help pay for a portion of their pension benefits at retirement.

Great news for PERS rates in the next biennium – our rates are going down to anywhere between 2 - 4.5%.

Ms. Cross then explained the difference in what our district pays, having utilized a \$24 million bond in 2004 to pay down the district liability, as opposed to districts who did not bond. We pay 1-2% less every year than districts that did not go out for bond.
 - *Seismic Project* – Hidden Valley and Illinois Valley projects have both been completed. Hidden Valley came in at \$61,000 under budget and Illinois Valley High School came in \$37,000 under budget. We just have some paper filings to complete. This week we received a \$36,000 rebate from the Energy Trust of Oregon for our lighting incentives for that project.
 - *Lincoln Savage Middle School Sewer Project* – The project has been put on hold. The DEQ denied the permits and now we have the onset of the rainy weather. We cannot do the construction on the sewers in this weather. The DEQ wants the district to install a pre-treatment system. Cascade Earth Sciences has submitted a detailed analysis report in response to the DEQ's letter. Once approved, we will get new engineering and site plans and wait for dry weather to begin the project. The district is currently working with the Medford DEQ on interim solutions for that wastewater.
- Board Policy – First Reading
 - *ACB – All Students belong*
 - *ACB-AR – Bias Incident Complaint Procedure*
 - Superintendent Valenzuela stated the board policy ACB and the AR for *All Students Belong* is a policy around equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and making sure that we are honoring all students in the Three Rivers School District. Our co-coordinators for our EDI efforts, Addison Pate and Dawn Werner, have been meeting to put together the initial committee. He asked the board to review as part of the first reading and get back to him with any feedback. We hope to adopt this policy at the December board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Interdistrict Transfer Slots**
 - Director Allen-Hart requested to close the open slots that we have in the district. There are not

many as the district is very full due to the need to space out students. She clarified that the students that move will be able to stay with us as well as any hardship situations that meet the hardship requirement for our students.

- Mr. York made a motion to close the remaining interdistrict transfer slots. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.
- **2020-2021 Student Calendar - Revised**
 - Director Alderson stated the revised calendar reflects changes for the 23rd and 24th of November, as well as November 10th & 11th for the staff preparation and training refreshers for those in grades 4-12 due to the fact that we now have students coming back on campus, and giving staff time to prepare for that.
 - Mr. Kelly made a motion to adopt the revised calendar. Mr. Halsted seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.
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- **Board Policy – Second Reading**
 - GCAB – *Personal Electronic Devices and Social Media - Staff*
 - Director Alderson shared that we took the recommendations provided by the board as well as recommendations from licensed staff who expressed some concerns around the discipline process that was in the policy.
 - Mr. York made a motion to adopt board policy GCAB - *Personal Electronic Devices and Social Media – Staff*. Mr. Halsted seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.
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- **Planned Course Statement – Veterinary Medicine**
 - Mr. Alderson shared that he was excited to be able to offer a course like this. It's a vet science class but doesn't get science credit. One of our new teachers, Trinity Shodin, who is taking over the ag program at Hidden Valley High School, is really excited about being able to offer this class. We believe it will have a pretty high demand and we hope to be able to replicate it at Illinois Valley High School.
 - Mr. York made a motion to adopt the Veterinary Medicine planned course statement. Mr. Halsted seconded the motion. There was some discussion. Board Chair Johnstun conducted a roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Budget Calendar**
 - Ms. Cross presented the budget calendar for approval. The proposed dates are: May 19, 2021 at 4:30 for the first meeting, this would take place before the regular board meeting, and May 26, 2021 for the second meeting.
 - Mr. Kelly made a motion to adopt the budget calendar as presented. Ms. Searle seconded the motion. Mr. Kelly asked if all of the Budget Committee positions were filled? Yes, they are, there are no changes this year. Board Chair Johnstun conducted a roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.
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- **Supplemental Budget - Resolution (#01) to Recognize and Appropriate Additional Funds**
 - Ms. Cross explained that resolution #01 is a supplemental budget asking the board to recognize and appropriate the additional funds based on the beginning fund balance which are the additional dollars that were not in the budget document from last year, in the amount of \$2,000,000 and then to appropriate them in to four different categories: building construction and improvement (\$120,000), building acquisition (\$125,000), transfer to capital (\$223,000) for the Lincoln Savage sewer project and the balance of the money in to contingency (\$1,532,000).
 - Mr. Halsted made a motion to approve resolution #01 supplemental budget, to recognize and appropriate additional funds. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.
 - **Fruitdale Property**
 - Ms. Cross explained that the district has an opportunity to acquire a piece of property from the City of Grants Pass. Fruitdale elementary is one of the fastest growing areas in the district, so procuring this property would allow for growth at Fruitdale Elementary. She requested the

- board approve for Superintendent Valenzuela to negotiate with the City of Grants Pass on that purchase. The property still needs to be assessed; we have not yet been given a firm number.
- Mr. York made a motion to allow Superintendent Valenzuela to negotiate on the purchase of the Fruitdale property. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. There was some discussion regarding the district's use of the property. Board Chair Johnstun called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

- **OSBA Election**

- Ms. Johnstun stated the first item is the *Resolution to adopt the OSBA 2021-2022 Legislative Priorities and Principles as recommended by the Legislative Priority Committee*.
- Mr. Halsted made a motion to adopt the OSBA resolution. Ms. Searle seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.
- Ms. Johnstun then explained there is an open position (#5) on the OSBA board to represent Southern Oregon. There are three candidates running for the position: Robert Hileman from Rogue River School District, Dawn Watson from Phoenix/Talent School District and Clement Williams from Prospect Charter School.
- Mr. Kelly made a motion to vote for Robert Hileman for the position; Mr. Halsted seconded the motion. There was some discussion, they believe it would be good to have someone close to our district that understands some of the challenges that we face in Josephine County and outlying areas. Board Chair Johnstun conducted a roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Suggested Future Agenda Items:

- Mr. Halsted requested an update on how the hybrid model is working as we push forward next month. Ms. Johnstun thought it might be nice to hear from some teachers as well.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- Board Regular Session, Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. – VIRTUAL

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Johnstun adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Jennifer Johnstun
Chairperson of the Board

Dave Valenzuela
Superintendent-Clerk

11-16-20

Dear Three Rivers School District School Board,

I am a 6th grade teacher at Lincoln Savage Middle School. I have been teaching in the district for twenty-two years and have been a valued leader in my school. Although this is an unprecedented year, and obvious modifications to education have to be followed, I am extremely concerned about recent discussions around Live streaming to an at-home group while simultaneously teaching to an in-class group. I would like the board to reconsider this concept for the following important reasons:

- Students have been out of the classroom since March. Once back in the classroom they deserve to have our undivided attention on lessons that primarily do not involve more screen time.
- The use of hands-on activities for in person students would exclude students working from home and the repetition the next day would reduce the value of the activity (most students do not have access to hands on materials that would be used in class)
- Transition times between activities would be lengthened due to the nature of on-line student questions ie: an on-line question isn't private. The entire group has to hear the response before moving on whereas an in-class question could be solved privately and quickly as needed
- Present technology (or training) does not seem to support simultaneous in person and online instruction, ie if Macbooks are used for meets, how will they be used to present instruction to in class students?
- In Educational forums that I am involved in (Edutopia, Canvas for Teachers, Teaching with COVID-19) most teachers express frustration with the simultaneous approach and many veteran teachers are considering leaving and/or have left the profession as a result.
- Beyond technology concerns, in the last 10 weeks the district has not provided any professional development or research that supports this model of instruction
- While I look forward to working with all students, I know that I will be most effective if I am allowed to focus on the students who are physically in my classroom, rather than having to divide my attention between the in class group and the online group.

A widely used and more efficient approach (nationally, statewide, and regionally) would be to promote synchronous vs asynchronous learning. Students in-class are led through an activity with the teacher's guidance (a lab, guided questions, a simulation) and given the directions for the next day's learning which could be a student-paced Nearpod, extension activity, Edpuzzle, class Padlet, listening to a pre-recording of a topic/lesson, writing and/or reading response that would be completed at-home without the teacher. Similarly at-home students would complete the same assignments, but in a different order.

The time and effort put into CDL is overwhelming and time consuming. Most teachers are putting in countless hours after school and on the weekend (on a device) to plan engaging

lessons which often include videotaping the lesson, organizing Canvas efficiently, connecting with families and countless other tasks. Hybrid with Live Streaming only adds to this workload with no advertised benefits.

I am pleading with you to reconsider this edict.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Brenda Tall

LSMS

6th Grade Science

brenda.tall@threerivers.k12.or.us

To the Three Rivers School Board, Directors, HR, and Superintendent, 11.18.20

I am writing to you as a teacher who has worked in our district for twenty-two years. I have worked at the high school level, at the correctional facility, and now at the middle school level. I have never felt that the challenges our district has faced in the past were insurmountable; however, at this moment, I am disappointed that teachers and staff concerns are not being addressed. We want to come back for our students, but right now in this current time, rushing into an opening is not prudent and it will most certainly have long-lasting effects on students and staff.

There is no overall consistency in how schools are conducting school. Some are moving students from class to class, some of us are using carts to move classroom to classroom throughout the student contact day. We become vectors of Covid, if exposed, to each set of students in our rooms. What is different in Middle and High school levels is the number of students we see in a day. Yes, we will have half of our students one day, the other half the next, but the staff working with them will potentially expose both sets.

At a time when the state is recommending extreme measures to maintain the protection of citizens, at a time when the Covid rates are climbing, it is time to pull back and wait for in-school instruction. The state decided to have Elementary students return, and as we are seeing, there are cases in local schools already beginning. It is much more difficult to switch back and forth between Comprehensive Distance learning and in-person structures than to delay our start until two weeks after the holidays, or even in January. It is reckless to rush students into a situation where they will be divided between at-home and in-person learning structures: we have been successful in creating relationships with our students in the current format, and to disrupt that three weeks into the new quarter will delay learning even more.

It will take students a while to adjust to the very strict rules surrounding the return to school, and socially and emotionally it will be more of a stressor than most people think. It will not be normal. They will not see most of their friends, they will not move around the classroom, they will be monitored in a way never before seen: this will not be what parents and students are asking for at a time when the case rates are rising and the risk of other viruses, like the flu, will be causing students and staff to stay home until they know if they have Covid. While I agree, seeing students will be helpful and is the best way to encourage their participation in learning and group structured instruction, what will occur in a classroom where a teacher can not get close enough to see a student's work or computer screen, while also supervising online Google Meets, will not address the needs that educators and parents have for improving our current situation.

Our Administrators have been tasked with an inordinate amount of planning in a very short time; counselors are making schedules up until the day we "soft start," the day before students return; we are having changes to our class and daily schedules minute by minute; bussing issues are still being changed minute by minute; restroom breaks for staff and students eating in the classrooms for extended periods of time (beyond the fifteen-minute exposure metric) is

concerning and not agreed to in an MOA; the only teacher input requested was in a one-hour meeting with the ONLAC group, who was told we would be able to adjust synchronous and asynchronous learning based on the needs of our curriculum, students, and teaching methods; and as of today, there are already exposures at IVHS and Evergreen, delaying the start of in-person teaching. It is time to realize that we are not ready as a district to roll this next stage out, and with the lack of proper planning time, notification of changes, and health issues developing in our community, it should be delayed.

Speaking as the Vice President of the TREA, our MOA was developed to get input into how our schools would reopen. We have not had discussions or meetings with the district or board as to how this was to happen: as with the rest of the TRSD staff, we were notified. I am hopeful that the board and the district leadership will allow all input to be taken into consideration after our partial "soft start," and adjust plans accordingly if there is a need.

Thank you for serving our community in what I know is a very demanding situation. Trying to balance the needs of all of our stakeholders is difficult, but with cooperation and real dialogue with those who are serving our students, we can be prepared for outcomes before they happen.

My hope is that the next two days in my classes will be safe and successful: staff will do what they have always done, serve in the best interest of our students. Please let us be a part of the solution, not the recipients of directives.

With respect and support,
Kimberly DeForest
LSMS ELA teacher
TREA Vice President



Letter for the Nov. 18 Board Meeting

Message

Jennifer Parsons <jennifer.parsons@threerivers.k12.or.us>
To: Shelly Quick <shelly.quick@threerivers.k12.or.us>

Tue, Nov 17, 2020 at 3:23

Please print and give to the Board for the meeting tomorrow.

11/17/20

Attention: Three Rivers School District Board

Greetings! My name is Jennifer Parsons. I am the 7th grade social studies teacher at Lincoln Savage. I am currently in my 27th year of teaching for this district and my 23rd year as a teacher at LSMS. I have a few concerns I would like to bring to your attention relating to the reopening of our schools in the Three Rivers School District.

As you all know, last Friday the governor announced closures within our state due to rising COVID numbers. Restaurants for take out only, health clubs and other indoor recreation closed, requiring businesses to mandate employees work from home when possible, limiting grocery and retail stores, limiting social gatherings... Yet we are reopening campuses to students. We seem to be moving backwards. Other states and countries are going into full lockdown mode. Our national cases are rising and even neighboring counties' numbers are skyrocketing. *Our numbers are lower, but they will not stay that way if we start changing our precautions and routines!* As students return issues arrive.

*Students will be allowed to remove masks to eat in my classroom, yet dining rooms in restaurants are closing? Our ventilation system spreads everything to each class.

*Many staff are caring for elderly parents and have a greater risk when working with children that are asymptomatic passing COVID to those that can least fight it.

*As a teacher, how do I divide my time and attention with students between live Google Meets and students that are present in my classroom? They both deserve my complete attention. I am giving neither group my best. Documentation all over the nation supports that this does not work.

*This is not a normal return. In our school, students will be staying in one room for the duration of their school day. No extra socializing or moving about campus like in the past. I cannot even get close to a child to read their assignment and give them feedback, other than on a computer.

*Other districts, even within our own county, are not yet allowing students to return. They are choosing to take a "wait and see" attitude.

*We have no way of knowing how the flu and COVID will interact.

*I am concerned for my own health and safety, even with all the cleaning protocols and distancing in place.

I do advocate for students to be back in school, but **only when it is safe to do so**. I feel it is not in the best interest of students or staff for students to return at this time.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Jennifer Parsons
Social Studies
Lincoln Savage Middle School

11-17-20

Dear Three Rivers School District School Board,

I am a 6th grade teacher at Lincoln Savage Middle School. I have been teaching in the district for twenty-four years and have been a valued leader in my school(s). Although this is an unprecedented year and obvious modifications to education have to be followed, I am extremely concerned about recent discussion around continuing with CDL to an at-home group while simultaneously teaching to an in-class group hybrid group. I would like the board to reconsider this concept for the following important reasons:

- Students have been out of the classroom since March. Once back in the classroom they deserve to have our undivided attention on lessons that primarily do not involve more screen time. Furthermore, students should have the experience of a traditional school setting; not just come to school and get on the computer again.
- The use of hands-on activities for in person students would exclude students working from home and the repetition the next day would reduce the value of the activity (most students do not have access to hands on materials that would be used in class)
- Transition times between activities not only would be lengthened due to the nature of on-line student questions ie: an on-line question isn't private. The entire group has to hear the response before moving on whereas an in-class question could be solved privately and quickly as needed but also due to the transition of logging into each Google Meet and waiting for students to join
- Present technology (or training) does not seem to support simultaneous in person and online instruction, ie if I'm standing/sitting in front of my MACbook camera and speaker how am also engaging the class that is physically in my room.
- Beyond technology concerns, in the last 10 weeks the district has not provided any professional development or research that supports this model of instruction
- In Educational forums that I am involved in (Edutopia, Canvas for Teachers, Teaching with COVID-19) most teachers express frustration with the simultaneous approach and many veteran teachers are considering leaving and/or have left the profession as a result due to overwork and their mental health
- While I look forward to working with all students, I know that I will be most effective if I am allowed to focus on the students who are physically in my classroom, rather than having to divide my attention between the in class group and the online group.

A widely used and more efficient approach (nationally, statewide, and regionally) promoted is synchronous vs asynchronous learning. Students in-class are led through an activity with the teacher's guidance (a lab, guided questions, a simulation) and given the directions for the next day's learning which could be a student-paced Nearpod, extension activity, Edpuzzle, class Padlet, writing and/or reading response that would be completed at-home without the teacher. Similarly at-home students would complete the same assignments, but in a different order.

The time and effort put into CDL is overwhelming and time consuming. Most teachers are putting in countless hours after school and on the weekend (on a device) to plan engaging lessons which often include videotaping the lesson, organizing Canvas efficiently, connecting with families and countless other tasks. Hybrid without CDL has its own additional demands, but Hybrid with CDL only adds tremendously to teacher workload with no advertised benefits.

I am pleading with you to reconsider this course of action.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Lacey Lafayette Fox
LSMS
6th grade Social Studies
lacey.fox@threerivers.k12.or.us

11/17/20

Attention: Three Rivers School District Board

Hello Again. My name is Lacey Fox. I am the 6th grade social studies teacher at Lincoln Savage. I have been teaching in the district for twenty-four years and have been a valued leader in my school(s). I have a few concerns I would like to bring to your attention that relate to reopening our schools in the Three Rivers District. I understand that you will not be reading this until Wednesday evening, but I want you to understand the foolhardiness of the situation.

As you all know, last Friday the governor announced closures within our state due to rising COVID numbers. Restaurants for take out only, health clubs and other indoor recreation closed, requiring businesses to mandate employees work from home when possible, limiting grocery and retail stores, and limiting social gatherings. However, during these two days of a "trial run," students will be allowed to remove masks to eat in the classroom, yet dining rooms in restaurants are closing? We will also be congregating in new, larger cohort groups which is the opposite of the governor's announcement and as our county numbers continue to drastically increase.

Furthermore, nonsensically, we are still reopening to students, and at the middle school level, having our COVID protocol, technology training, and planning time AFTER students will be in the building for two days. Where is the logic in that?

Due to having planning time AFTER students, over the last several days, already beleaguered teachers have spent their own time (after normal work hours/weekend) and energy planning for student arrival with little guidance of protocols, no guidance on how to organize a hybrid schedule in Canvas, going to short randomly scheduled staff meetings to problem solve, and to a certain extent haphazardly throwing a schedule together. COVID signage on order and not arriving on time is another example of a hasty decision. All this rush has created a situation where our LS families are at

the last minute being informed (most only as of today) what group their child will be in, busing information, and other crucial information that they should have been aware of weeks ago in order to plan their family schedule effectively.

Most other districts in our county/region are not yet allowing students to return or putting a halt to their in-school situation. They are, however, building a plan by sending out parent surveys about bringing back devices into the classroom, being clear on what a hybrid schedule will be in terms of synchronous and asynchronous learning and an purely online option, notifying parents of classroom protocols and mask procedures, and hosting webinars to field parent questions.

I do advocate for students to be back in school, but **only when it is safe to do so and thoughtfully planned**. It is not in the best interest of students or staff for students to return at this time due to the recent governor's directive nor do I appreciate the haste in which the district announced its decision to return to school with only giving our grade level minimum time to make a plan. Ultimately both are not beneficial to students, families, staff members or the community at large.

In the upcoming weeks I would hope for more teacher input and for the school board and directors to actively listen to our concerns.

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Lacey Lafayette Fox
LSMS
6th Grade Social Studies
lacey.fox@threerivers.k12.or.us