



June 19, 2020

Good evening Methuen Families!

I hope this message finds you all well and healthy. It is hard to believe that we have come to the last day of school and certainly even more difficult that we are saying goodbye virtually. I have enjoyed seeing students, parents, and faculty this week as belongings are being gathered, caps and gowns are being handed out, and 8th grade certificates, awards, and yearbooks are being distributed. It has certainly been a remarkable experience for everyone but especially our students, families, and teachers. These have been trying times for many different reasons including the COVID pandemic and the national crisis surrounding systemic racism in our country. Our community was able to support our students, families, and each other through all of this. Thank you to everyone who made getting through the last three months possible and positive!

Districts in Massachusetts are expected to get fall reopening guidelines over the next two weeks from the Commissioner of Education. Once we received all necessary guidelines, our leadership team will be using the information from the parent surveys (which we received ~2200) and the staff survey to discuss and create a reopening plan that follows the expectations set by the state and can be executed by the district. The five school councils that consist of both teachers and parents along with our Special Education Advisory Council and our English Learner Advisory Council will provide feedback as we draft plans in July as much as possible. Our intention is to have reopening plans out to the school committee and school community by July 31 for planning purposes. I will communicate with families during this time to keep everyone abreast of the planning process and timelines. This is difficult for all of us not knowing exactly what everything will look like come September but we will have a plan and our priority will be the health and safety of the students and providing them with a quality education.

I hope everyone is able to recharge and spend time enjoying the summer. Again, thank you for everything you did to support your children, especially these last three months!

Sincerely,

Brandi L. Kwong, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Methuen Public Schools