

Friday Update May 29, 2020

Dear Sulphur Springs Families,

This is Dr. Catherine Kawaguchi, Superintendent, with your Friday Update, May 29, 2020.

District Staff met this week with the Instructional Task Forces to assist with the preparation to re-open our schools in the fall. The Task Forces are looking at different instructional delivery models to possibly be able to implement. In addition, the Safety Task Force is meeting next week and there has already been a lot of work done to prepare for the re-opening of our schools with health and safety as a number one priority.

It is important for our families to know that all of the Superintendents in our Valley are working closely with our LA County Office of Education, Department of Public Health, state health authorities, as well as Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As Superintendents, we are also communicating with Dr. Robert Gilchick from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. He has clearly stated that schools will not be able to bring students back for on campus instruction until the state and county orders allow it. There will be protocols issued by Department of Public Health that will outline safe operations to re-open schools when permitted. Please also know that there are other agencies that regulate schools, such as California Department of Education, that can also set or influence policies related to schools and their re-opening. Districts are hoping that any guidance from the California Department of Education will align with the Department of Health and CDC.

The reason for me taking the time to explain all of these different agencies and their influences as it relates to schools possibly re-opening is to emphasize that re-opening our schools is not a local decision. Our District is taking into consideration all of the protocols being recommended from the various agencies to prepare to re-open our schools in the fall. I have had some families ask me when I will make the decision to re-open our schools, and as you can see, this decision will be made for all schools by state and county agencies. Again, this is not a local decision.

While our District continues to wait for direction from the state and county agencies, we will continue to move forward with planning multiple scenarios to be ready to re-open. I want to extend my true appreciation to our families and staff that are partnering to work on these multiple scenarios. We are truly grateful that we have parents wanting to be on our Task Forces to support our next steps.

I also wanted to inform you that on June 9th at 6:00PM, Assistant Superintendents and I will be hosting a Fall Planning Meeting to share the District's initial plans to re-open. Please know that these plans may have to be altered if we are provided different direction from the state and county levels. We feel that it is important that we are sharing what the District is looking at for the fall so that families are informed. If you are unable to attend this meeting, it will also be recorded and placed on our website for later viewing. This meeting will be held virtually. Next week, I will send out the address to watch it virtually. Since we are anticipating a high number

of families watching, it will not be possible to answer questions during the Meeting. In order to better support families and for staff to try to answer questions during the Meeting, I am asking families to submit their questions ahead of time through email at fallplanning@sssd.k12.ca.us. If we are unable to answer all questions, we will make sure to send out answers to the questions at a later date when we know the answers.

Thank you again for your partnership and commitment to our amazing students. Wishing you a wonderful weekend.