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STATEMENT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT REGARDING GOV. PHIL MURPHY'S
ANNOUNCEMENT AUGUST 12, 2020

Today, August 12, 2020, Gov. Phil Murphy reiterated the state of New Jersey's "ultimate objective" of offering some form of in-person learning for the opening of the 2020-2021 school year. The Department of Education is in the process of reviewing districts' documentation of their plans, including Cherry Hill's, for reopening. The governor also announced that New Jersey public schools must demonstrate their ability to meet all safety protocols associated with in-person learning. School districts that want to follow a 100 percent remote learning model must document for the state Department of Education the reasons they cannot offer in-person classes at the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

At this time, we have a solid plan for both a hybrid learning schedule – which includes in-person learning at school and remote learning – and an all-remote learning schedule. Our families may choose the option best suited to their children. To date, approximately 90 percent of our families have submitted their choices. Of those submissions, about 30 percent have chosen the full remote option; about 70 percent have chosen the hybrid option.

As we have said throughout the pandemic, our situation is fluid. Please understand that our plans may change as we move closer to the first day of school on September 8. Given the information shared by the Governor and Interim Commissioner Dehmer, we will be reevaluating our plan and discussing our options with Board of Education leadership, staff association leadership, and families. We are prepared to move to an all-remote learning model for all students and staff if necessary.

I would like to thank the nearly 80 members of our Return to School Committee and our Return to Work Committee for their continued dedication to and hard work on our reopening plans.

I encourage everyone to visit the District website's WE Return to Learn page for detailed information and an FAQ that is updated daily. Parents should check their email regularly for updates from their child's school and from the District.

I would also like to thank our families for their continued patience and flexibility.

Dr. Joseph N. Meloche
Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools