



## **NMRSD Update Wednesday, June 3, 2020**

Hello,

It has been a while since the last update due to a lack of information to share from the state. Please see the announcements below.

### **NM's Response to George Floyd**

I am going to do my best to leave politics out of what has become a politically charged situation.

Although we are currently not meeting “in person” it is the district’s intent to dedicate time to discussing racism and how to respond to it when we do eventually make it back into our classrooms. I think it is fair to say that the topic of racism cannot be covered remotely as it entails difficult conversations that require the support and conversational guidance of our teachers, counselors, and administration.

I think Bill Fine, the General Manager and President of WCVB said it well during his editorial on June 1st and I have included a portion of his statement below:

*“As to “blame,” here’s what we don’t need right now: We don’t need to blame those protestors—black and white—who have taken to the streets of our cities peacefully to make their voices heard. And we don’t need those whose acts of violence drown those voices out. We don’t need the usual “thoughts and prayers” for another black man murdered by a white police officer ... We do need to realize it is way past time. And we do need to look in the mirror and say as a nation that if we can mobilize in three months to fight a new virus, we can also finish the work to conquer a centuries-old one. That vaccine—our collective will and resolve—is as available now as it’s ever been.”*

Where it is our intention to cover this appropriately at all grade levels when we return to school, I ask that in the meantime that our parent community begin these difficult conversations at home as our collective efforts are essential if we want to impact a centuries old injustice.

### **Parent Coffee**

The next virtual parent coffee will be held on Wednesday, June 10th at 2:00 pm. In the meantime, please be on the lookout for a meeting invitation from Robin Eibye, and please email me directly any pressing questions that you have in advance.

### **Grade 8 Celebrations**

NMS will host a Drive Up Celebration for students on Friday, June 12 at 5:00 p.m. Please see attachments for more information. Also, yard signs are being delivered to the homes of eighth graders this Friday, June 5!

[Grade 8 Celebration](#)

[NMS Celebration](#)

HBMS is putting together a video for a virtual celebration of our graduating 8th grade students, which will be made available on Monday, June 15th, at 5:30p.m. More information on how to access the video (via school website or different link) will be shared soon! If you still need to pick up a yard sign for your graduating 8th grade student, please contact our school at 978-597-6914 to arrange pick-up.

### **DESE Return to School Working Group**

Nancy Milligan, Brad Brooks, and I formed a twenty-person steering committee that will be broken down into the following focus groups:

*Scheduling*

*Safety*

*Special Education & Counseling Service Delivery / Related Services*

*Social Emotional Needs*

*Technology & Internet Access*

*Parent Support*

*Curriculum, Teaching/Learning PD*

Nancy Milligan sent out an invitation to parents for the Parent Support Focus Group, which will help to inform the district on parent needs in a remote or blended environment regarding curriculum, technology, and other challenges. Parents that are selected will be notified on Wednesday, June 10th. Thank you all for volunteering to be part of the Parent Focus group. We had over 250 people volunteer to be part of this committee.

### **Plan for the Fall**

During the weekly meeting with Commissioner Jeff Riley yesterday, he announced that the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education will be releasing what he termed “prescriptive” guidance that would be more of a “directive” as to what education will look like in the fall, whether it be traditional “brick and mortar”, a continuation of remote learning, or a blended “hybrid” approach.

In essence, schools will have little to no choice and will need to adopt whatever model DESE releases, which will be sometime during the week of **June 15th**. I think it is important to note that this is a decision that Governor Baker will make and DESE will map out a plan that complies with the governor's decision regarding what public education will look like in the fall.

I recognize that one of the biggest obstacles we will face is childcare and we are working to come up with potential solutions. I did communicate with the Commissioner directly and did request the educators and district employees be added to the "essential" workers list so that NM staff have increased access to daycare as we want as many staff to be able to return as possible.