

Hello parents, students, staff and community. Ey Swayel.

It's August 25th and two weeks from today our schools will be open, and staff will begin their preparation to receive students who, as you know, will begin on September, 10th. The message today is really just to update you where we are, tell you what you can expect on opening week and to let you know what we are planning.

First and foremost, we kind of have three things happening right now. We've submitted our plans to the Ministry of Education, and as you know, for secondary schools that means a hybrid or blended program for students in grade 10 to 12, where you'll have one class in the morning, and you'll be in a combination online face to face in the afternoon. For students in grade eight to nine, you'll again have two courses, but you'll be in school full time five days a week. In elementary, our plans are to have all students, 100% of students who attend 100% of the time. Of course, the cohorts, is the big issue for us. In elementary, it's much more straightforward where your class really is your cohort. Elementary schools are permitted to have cohorts or learning groups up to 60, but your classes in elementary are generally smaller than 30 students and sometimes down to 20. So it really is about the movement of students in the school and how we accommodate that. So we've submitted our plans to the ministry, and we expect fully that they will be approved and then we'll be able to go public with all of the details.

So I said we kind of have three things happening. We have our elementary model, we have our secondary model, and we've also really heard a cry from the community around looking for something different. Parents aren't sure what to do in the current pandemic, and maybe they're uncertain about sending their child to school, and they're not necessarily looking for homeschooling or for pure Distributed Learning. They're looking for something in between. So we've sent out a survey to all parents both in elementary and secondary, but more specifically for elementary, and we really want to know what parents exactly are asking for. Because it's impossible for us to be all things to all people, and we don't know whether people want to send their child, one day a week, two days a week, not at all, or they don't want anything to do with the school as far as coming in attendance for the next six months or eight months. So we're trying to figure all that out and here's what we believe we've heard. Parents are looking for something different. They're looking for a way to remain connected to their neighborhood school, and they hope to have an opportunity to return to their neighborhood school, at some point in the future. We know there are models out there like the Calgary hub model, which we've seen and we've talked with Calgary directly, but those models also require great commitment, and in the Calgary model, just for example there's only one point of re-entry a year, and it's in February, and that's it. So, it's a fantastic model but it isn't necessarily something that we could take and import easily over to Surrey. So we have our elementary model out there, we have our secondary model out there, and we have the survey, where we really need to know from our public. What do you want, in terms of, if we were to design something different? How would we meet your needs, knowing that the needs of the community are extremely diverse? So please watch for that survey and make sure you fill it out, it's super important for us.

What about opening week? As you know, the start of school has been delayed and September 8th and 9th are really about health and safety and orientation for our staff, and then students will start coming in on September 10th and 11th. We'll do that in really small numbers, because of course we can't form

cohorts, and we don't want to bring students in classes on the 10th and 11th. We really want to work to have our cohorts in place and to be fully operational by September 14.

So again, just an update for you in terms of where we are. The Ministry has got our plans, our secondary schools are timetabling like crazy, and it's an enormous task for them. A really big shout out to our principals and vice principals, they are doing an incredible amount of work at the secondary level and with our teachers to try and figure out just how to do this and to do it really well so that it works for all children. So with that, you'll hear from me again soon. And I hope you have a chance to listen this update and so you're up to speed as much as possible.

As always, take care, stay well, Hy'ce:pka, and we'll talk to you again soon.