

# The Weekly Warrior

August 7, 2020

## RMSD Update

**Dr. Bickert**  
Superintendent

To all new employees and to returning Warriors: Welcome to Warrior Nation for the 2020-21 school year! It did not seem right not starting the year off together at a welcome back breakfast, but my sincere hope is that we will get that opportunity again, perhaps as early as January 2021. For the past several years, during my welcome back address, I have chosen a “theme” song for the year, which I hoped either described our situation or would inspire us through the year. With everything that we have experienced since March, and continue to experience, I am choosing Journey’s, “Don’t Stop Believin’” as this year’s song, simply because I think it embodies a hope and a spirit we need to continue to embrace. I received numerous positive emails and comments on last week’s TWW’s headings, so for the time being I will continue with: What We Know and What We Don’t Know.

## What We Know

**Online:** Until Labor day, we are restricted to and will only be allowed to provide online instruction/learning opportunities (with limited exceptions for specific student groups). Our remote learning model begins Wednesday, August 19, 2020.

**Salaries:** The District and REA were able to reach an agreement on salary and CBA issues during the most recent negotiation sessions. REA has ratified the tentative agreement and the Board of Education votes on the proposal Tuesday night. Expect an announcement on the details shortly after the Board meeting.

## What We Know (continued)

**Pre-K/Special Education(K-12) students:** We are allowed to bring these students back to in-person learning prior to Labor Day, in a 5 to 1 student-to-adult ratio. Specifics are still being worked out for each building site. When these students return to in-person learning, staff who work directly with these students become “essential” employees.

**Food Services:** We continue providing meals to the students of our community and to date, we have provided over 88,000 meals!

**Building Safety:** The new robots have joined our incredible custodian and maintenance teams in helping keep our facilities as safe as possible for staff now and for everyone upon the return of our students. If you are accessing our facilities, please remember to follow all health and safety provisions.

**Availability:** New scenarios raise questions, and when they do, please know that your building administrators and I are available by email and phone (my office line is 630-7010) to help answer them and provide as much information regarding “what we know.”

## What We Don’t Know

**Essential Employees:** We are awaiting guidance and recommendations regarding employees, whose work status changes to “essential employee.”

**Enrollment and Attendance:** While we continue to attempt to reach each and every family in the District to ascertain their plans, we do not know what our enrollment, and therefore, positional needs will be. Additionally, PED is currently encouraging local districts to create their own student attendance policies for when districts are in full remote and hybrid scenarios.

## Thank you...

to everyone who has chosen to be a part of Warrior Nation in 2020-21. “Don’t Stop Believin’” that WE will do great things for students this year! *Dr. Bickert*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Remote Learning begins: August 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Hybrid begins: K – 5<sup>th</sup> (Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>); 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> (Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>)**

