Dr. David Chapin
Interim Superintendent of Schools
RECOMMENDED MOTION

“I move the Grand Ledge Public Schools Board of Education approve the Offsite Distance Learning Plan as presented by the administrative staff as the 2020-21 school year begins on September 8th through the end of the first trimester on December 4th; and, furthermore approve the purchase of the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) Hosted Enterprise License in the amount of $393,750.”
How Did We Get to This Point?

- Actually, we did NOT WANT to get to this point.

- Our profession values in-person, in-classroom, in-school, relationship-oriented, teaching and learning.
MI Safe Schools Roadmap Released

MI Safe Schools: Michigan’s 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap

Governor Gretchen Whitmer COVID-19 Task Force on Education Return to School Advisory Council

June 30, 2020

MI Safe Start
Phase 4

Virus Status
- The number of new cases and deaths is markedly lower than original guidance and recommendations for safer at home, work, and school measures.
- Health care system capacity is maintained.
- Schools in regions with sustained transmission should consider options for temporary in-person learning.

How to Keep School Communities Safe
- School programs and resources are aligned with state guidance and recommendations.
- School health plans reflect guidance and recommendations.
- Contact tracing and other disease-prevention strategies are in place.
- School operating status is managed through a dynamic approach.

School Operating Status
- Safe return to face-to-face learning.
- Hybrid learning models.
- Continued remote learning.

Essential Actions and Safety Protocols
- Safety protocols.
- Mental Health and Social Emotional Well-being.
- Pandemic preparedness.
- Operations.
How Did We Get to This Point?

Currently in Phase 4

“In-person instruction is permitted with required safety protocols”

Requirements & Strong Recommendations & Recommendations

- Social Distance - 6 feet
- Masks
- Screening of Students
- Hygiene
How Did We Get to This Point?

- So, the GLPS administrative team continued working on a plan that would make the most sense for our students and community
- 23 Administrators & Directors
- 96 Faculty and Staff
- Survey Data
- Personal Conversations and Email
- Professional, Thoughtful, Differing Opinions Valued
Two-Option Model Made Public

Letter from Interim Superintendent

July 14, 2020

Dear Grand Ledge Parents, Guardians, Community Members,

As we near the end of the 2019-2020 school year, I am currently appointed by the Grand Ledge Board of Education as the Interim Superintendent of Schools. Today I want to provide you with an update on the planning and decision-making process for the upcoming school year.

Let me begin by thanking you for your continued support and commitment to the Grand Ledge Public Schools. I am especially grateful to all of our parents and guardians for your dedication to the education of our students.

In order to make the best possible decision for our students, the school district has been working with various stakeholders to develop a comprehensive plan for the upcoming school year. This plan will take into account the health and safety of our students, staff, and families.

The final decision on the two-option model will be announced shortly. We are committed to providing a safe and healthy learning environment for all students. The school district will continue to monitor the situation and adjust our plans as necessary.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. We are working hard to ensure that our students receive the best possible education.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Interim Superintendent

Grand Ledge Public Schools
Excerpt: We Made Three Things Very Clear

1) the health and safety of our students and staff will be most important,

2) we will work in accord with the Eaton-Barry Health Department, Center for Disease Control (CDC) and State Government, and

3) we will work in unison with other school districts in the region.
Flyer & Survey for Two-Plan Option

Reopening Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year: GLP plans to offer families TWO OPTIONS!

Option 1: IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION
- Follows requirements of PA Safe Schools 2020-2021 Return to School Roadmap
- Utilizes recommendations from the CDC, the PA Dept. of Health
- Emphasis on safety & hygiene including wearing masks, hand washing, social distancing
- Prioritizes social & emotional elements to help students transition back to school
- Focuses on essential learning standards to help ensure students are prepared for PA Keystone Exams
- In-person instruction is designed to ease the transition to online learning if the state or region moves into a phase that requires schools to stop in-person instruction.

Option 2: 100% ONLINE INSTRUCTION
- A safe, flexible, rigorous educational option supported by teacher-led instruction
- Designed with flexibility in mind to meet the needs of students & families
- Online resources & assistance provided to students & families
- Instructions from the teachers of Grant Lodge Public Schools who have completed additional training in online teaching & learning
- Students stay connected to their teachers, classmates, & school
- Focuses on essential learning standards to help ensure students are prepared for learning this year and in the future
- Follows the same standards & curriculum taught in the in-person instruction option.

Both Options have EXTRACURRICULARS!
All students - in-person & online students - are eligible to participate in all available extracurricular activities & athletics. All extracurricular activities will follow the same safety, hygiene, & cleaning protocols used for in-person instruction at Grant Lodge Public Schools. Additional information can be found at grlp.org/extracurriculars.

Indicate your preference now at: glp.com/Options to help GLP plan!
Guidance from Barry-Eaton Health Dept.

Back to School during the COVID-19 Pandemic
Planning for the 2020-2021 school year in Barry and Eaton Counties, MI

Presenter: Anne Barna, MA
Public Information Officer
Planning and Health Promotion Director

Barry-Eaton District Health Department
Guidance from Barry-Eaton Health Dept.

When Opening Schools, Keep in Mind...

- There is no perfect plan
- Look for the “less bad” option
- Compliance will never be perfect
- Learning will be different
- There will be disruptions
- Schools may need to reclose unexpectedly
Guidance from Barry-Eaton Health Dept.

BUT...

- Reopening is important
- School closure in spring is expected to lead to increase in high school drop-out
- Worldwide increases in abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence toward children were seen during lockdown measures
- Students see increase weight gains and are more sedentary the longer they are on school breaks
- School closures effect parent’s ability to work, including up to 30% of healthcare providers
Guidance from Barry-Eaton Health Dept.

Screening of Students

• All students should be screened for signs of illness prior to arrival to school each day
• Recommendations from AAP, Harvard, CDC all discuss options of delegating screening to parents
  • AAP: School policies regarding temperature screening and temperature checks must balance the practicality of performing these screening procedures for large numbers of students...and the possible lost instructional time to conduct the screenings... Parents should be instructed to keep their child at home if they are ill.
  • Harvard: Students, school staff, and parents should be made aware of the symptoms of COVID-19. Schools should consider a daily declaration, via electronic means, that each person heading to school that day is free of symptoms
Listening to Educators & Health Pro’s

Moving from making decisions in a conference room to working with and listening to veteran educators ... these practical issues surface as most problematic

- Masks
- Social Distance
- Student Screening Prior to Arriving at School
- Ongoing Hygiene, Handwashing
- Testing Results Turnaround
- Tracking Proximity of One Student to Another
- Chronic Absenteeism
COVID-19 Testing Delays

As of July 31, 2020

Some Michigan coronavirus test results take ‘so long that it doesn’t matter’

July 23, 2020

Michigan COVID-19 labs are again seeing delays as more people are tested

July 22, 2020
More COVID-19 Considerations

- Various Youth Sports Quarantines, Summer 2020
- School Districts in Our Region of Similar Size Beginning 100% Online (CAAC Blue)
- Pressure on Health Systems w/ Return of Students
Sept. 8 - Historic, Unique School Year Start

- Our students need us to be ready, helpful, and prepared.
- Our teachers will need to adapt their vast skill set to new conditions.
- Our administrators will need to find new ways to lead.
Dr. Bill Barnes
Asst. Superintendent of Academic Services
Timeline for Planning - May & June

- **Week of May 3rd** - District-wide meetings to discuss fall planning
- **End of the School Year** - PD and resources survey to determine teacher needs and interest in being a part of the implementation teams
- **Week of June 10th** - Leadership teams took part in restorative justice, trauma, and Youth Mental Health First Aid training in preparation for fall; this was the first opportunity for teachers to attend a training in person with safety protocols in place.
- **June 18th** - Administrative leaders of implementation teams began meeting
- **Last Week of June** - GLPS sent out a staff and parent survey AND the state task force for reopening schools released its roadmap
Timeline for Planning - Early July

- July 1st - First implementation team meeting with teachers involved
- Mid July - Regular meetings with GLEA leadership
- July 14th - Announcement made that GLPS is considering two options; parents asked their preference
- July 20th - Board approves the purchase of IXL, an virtual curriculum tool, based on teacher recommendation
Timeline for Planning - Late July/August

- July 22nd - GLPS PD plan is released, reflecting requests from the end of the year PD survey
- July 23rd - Countrywide meeting with the Eaton/Barry Health Department to inform plans; the return to school roadmap requires coordination with local health departments.
- July 27th - Online implementation team meets for the last time, all three implementation teams wrap up
- Weekly meetings with other Eaton County districts, central office, and administrative teams
- July 28th - All staff town hall meeting with staff questions and feedback
- July 31st - Communication to parents and staff
- August 3rd - Recommendation released
Off-Site Learning IS ...

- The safest way to educate our students during this pandemic
- Focused on new, essential learnings that will help students succeed in their current grade levels, future grades, and standardized assessments
- School that takes place outside of our buildings, and includes daily attendance, grades, regular teacher feedback, and an expectation for full teacher/student participation
Off-Site Learning IS also ...

- Centered around daily activities in all classes/subject areas
- A combination of synchronous (teacher interacts with students) and asynchronous (students complete activities) lessons
- Rooted in best practices for online instruction and online curriculum tools
- A system that creates opportunities for students to receive additional support and extracurricular opportunities in person if all Phase 4 guidelines can be followed
Off-Site Learning IS NOT ...

- A decision we reached without exhausting all feasible possibilities
- The online review we utilized in the spring
- A permanent educational solution for all students
- Designed to create an “easier” educational option for students/teachers

This will *not* be the same experience we had in April & May!
District, Teacher, Parent, & Student Expectations

The following slides contain information about expectations for all stakeholders in this process. Details will follow in the coming weeks as we continue to work with our employee groups to determine the best way to implement our system.
District Expectations

● Grand Ledge Public Schools will provide support and assistance with technology for online students and parents who need it.
  ○ Students who need it will be provided a computing device
  ○ GLPS staff will work with families to ensure adequate internet connection if needed

● Teachers, administrators, counselors, and support staff will be available and fill roles to help ensure students have the opportunity to learn and support they need to be successful

● Plans will be implemented to allow students to safely be in buildings
Teacher Expectations

- Record daily attendance
- Provide daily synchronous and/or asynchronous learning activities
- Provide daily/weekly whole group instruction (video and/or live)
- Provide regular small group learning opportunities, as needed
- Document a minimum of one two-way communication with each student each week
- Respond to all student phone calls/emails in a timely manner
Teacher Expectations (cont.)

- Be aware of students’ social and emotional well-being

- Make contact with students who are not engaged/participating and make recommendations to counselors for students who need additional support.

- Regularly update grades:
  - Elementary (K-3) teachers will complete standard grades at the end of the trimester.
  - Elementary (4-6) teachers will keep grades current in PowerSchool.
  - Secondary (7-12) teachers will keep grades current in PowerSchool.
Teacher Expectations (cont.)

- Secondary teachers will provide a weekly agenda/schedule for students at the beginning of each week.

- Elementary teachers will provide a weekly and/or daily agenda/schedule for students.

- Teachers at each level will use the same learning platform for online learning:
  - K-2 BUZZ Learning Management, and/or Seesaw or Google Classroom
  - 3-6 BUZZ Learning Management, and/or Google Classroom
  - 7-8 BUZZ Learning Management, and/or Google Classroom
  - 9-12 BUZZ Learning Management, and/or Google Classroom
Parent Expectations

- Identify learning mentors to help students throughout the day; these could be parents, grandparents, older siblings, or any adults able to help students with their school work.
- Help develop the student’s learning schedule.
- Communicate clear expectations and guidelines for attendance, work completion and quality of work.
- Review instructor feedback with the student.
- Review the student's Grand Ledge email account with their student.
- Track online progress and communicate regularly with teachers.
Parent Expectations (cont.)

- Monitor student progress daily/weekly to help the student stay on track
  - Elementary
    - Work side by side as needed
    - Be present and available as students are working
    - Encourage students to be good self-advocates by asking for help when needed.
  - Secondary
    - Support and encourage
    - Help students become organized, self-directed, independent learners
    - Encourage students to use the resources available (directions, materials, office hours) to help them succeed.

- Ensure weekly two way communication with teachers.
Student Expectations

- Students are expected to fully participate in all class activities online, including regularly scheduled “live” lessons.
  - If absent, students are expected to demonstrate mastery of standards for the assigned work. Multiple absences will be subject to the district’s attendance policy.

- Students will be good self-advocates by asking for help when needed; students will participate in office hours if the teacher has requested to meet with the student.

- Students will work toward mastery of grade level/subject area Common Core and Michigan Content Area Standards.
Student Expectations (cont.)

- Take all standardized assessments (M-STEP, NWEA, PSAT, SAT, etc.).

- Completing all work assigned in online classes and communicating regularly with teachers.

- Expect to do up to six hours of core and specials/electives learning activities each day, as developmentally appropriate per grade level; these may include, but are not limited to:
  - Brain Breaks
  - Recess/Movement
  - Reading or Read Alouds
  - Life Skills
  - Outdoor Exploration
  - Free Play/Creativity/Family Choice
Curriculum and Resources

- Current curriculum materials (Journeys, Everyday Math, STEMScopes, etc.)
- IXL for all students, K-12
- Google Classroom and Seesaw
- Recommended purchase of Florida Virtual content and Buzz learning management system, K-12
Teacher Training

- Michigan Virtual blended/online transition courses
- IXL and Florida Virtual/Buzz specific training
- Restorative practices
- Trauma informed instruction
- Teacher collaboration
Dr. Steve Gabriel
Asst. Superintendent of Human Resources & Operations
Human Resources

Impact on faculty and staff

- Teaching Staff
- Administration
- Support Staff
  - Secretarial
  - Para-Professionals
  - Food Service
  - Transportation
  - Custodial
  - Grounds/maintenance

Provide for the continued employment of school employees while redeploying staff to provide meaningful work in the context of the Return to School Plan
Operations

Impact on Departments

- **Food Service**
  - Continue to serve meals to our students who qualify for free meals or reduced-price meals

- **Transportation**
  - Some “special” runs

- **Custodial/Grounds Maintenance**
  - Continue to operate and maintain buildings and grounds
Operations

Preparations for opening building

- Cleaning/Sanitizing
  - Specific to Opening
  - Ongoing
- Supplies
- PPE
- Signage
- Air Quality