May 29, 2020

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

Like you, I can hardly believe we’re near the end of our academic year—a year that has been so different than what we could have ever anticipated. The last day of school is June 4, and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued focus and hard work on behalf of our students. As we move forward, I want to make certain all of you are kept informed about important information as we plan for the reopening of our schools in the fall.

A few topics of concern:

**Budget Deficit**

The financial impact of COVID-19 on K-12 education is profound. Every school district will be impacted and until there’s an adopted state budget in June, all school district budget projections will continue to fluctuate based on the Governor’s most recent proposals to address the state’s $54 billion shortfall. In Twin Rivers, we’ve gone from an estimated $3.7 million budget shortfall before COVID-19 to $11.3 million (0% revenue change) and now $27.6 million (-10% revenue decrease), due to drastic cuts proposed by the Governor in 2020-21 funding for K-12 schools. I know it’s tough adjusting to this new financial reality. To complicate matters, there will likely be a revision to the state adopted budget in late summer once the state’s income tax revenue is known; and we don’t know what that will look like. There are still a number of unknowns that prevent school districts from having the full picture of the pandemic’s financial impact. There may be additional federal stimulus funding that will significantly lower our projected deficit. We just don’t know yet. We will let you know when new information becomes available.

**Reopening of Schools**

Like school districts across the country, we have many questions and concerns to work through in order to safely reopen our schools amid this unprecedented public health crisis. Given the uncertainty regarding the days and months ahead, TR has three different models on how to proceed. Our highest priority, as always, is the health and safety of our students and staff.

I mentioned the three models in my May 8 letter:

- Students return to classrooms with teachers.
- Distance learning if we are still under stay-at-home orders.
- Students return and physical distancing is required, which would involve returning students to school in smaller groups and delivering some instruction online.
Our intention—as much as circumstances will allow—is to meet our anticipated Aug. 18 start date for the 2020-2021 school year. At this time we really can’t tell you what our classrooms will look like. In an effort to gather as much feedback as possible, we would like your input. Please complete the following applicable link to a brief survey:

- **Staff/Teacher Survey Link**  
  [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezLpccvfd5eyMTAEwGWUUhYiHGZylgi6rQSZ7q9AKWur2CuSw/viewform?usp=sf_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezLpccvfd5eyMTAEwGWUUhYiHGZylgi6rQSZ7q9AKWur2CuSw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

- **Parent Survey Link**:  
  [https://forms.gle/6ZXV3t87DX5rj7Wg6](https://forms.gle/6ZXV3t87DX5rj7Wg6)

  **Spanish**  
  [https://forms.gle/m2wVEfq56bhRNhZo7](https://forms.gle/m2wVEfq56bhRNhZo7)

Please know decisions moving forward will not be made in isolation. We’re collaborating with a wide range of partners, including our employee labor groups and Sacramento County Public Health. In addition, two widely respected members of our leadership team—Gina Carreon, Chief Human Resources Official, and Dr. Lori Grace, Associate Superintendent of School Leadership—are on a Sacramento County task force to provide guidance and a framework for districts to reopen in the fall. Information and insights from this task force will assist in finalizing our work in determining the safest and most effective path forward.

During this unsettling time of change, let’s not forget the celebrations around the district. Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors. What an awesome group of young people! Be sure to visit our **TR Virtual Graduations 2020** webpage  

Be safe and well.

Sincerely,

Steve Martinez, Ed.D.  
Superintendent, Twin Rivers Unified