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July 10, 2020

Dear Newcastle Families, Friends, and Community:

The recent events related to COVID-19 have created challenges unparalleled in our lives. It is still undetermined when or how the pandemic will be brought under control, and we can all resume our daily routines. As your elected School Board Trustees, our duty is to ensure a safe, nurturing, and academic learning environment for all our children. We have reached out to our families and begun the necessary steps to ensure our high-quality educational program will continue.

The responses from our survey strongly indicated our parents' first choice is to have students back in the classroom full-time. Be assured your Trustees are making this our highest priority, within the guidelines we must follow from local and state jurisdictions.

Some of the steps we have already taken to provide for a safe learning environment include:

- ***Removing all non-essential items from classrooms to create maximum distancing.***
- ***Providing additional handwashing stations and hand sanitizer access***
- ***Providing daily classroom sanitizing and playground equipment cleaning***
- ***A plan for families who would prefer a distance-learning option in the fall***

Additionally, if we are not allowed to open with students in attendance, or must move to virtual learning during the year, we are:

- ***Providing staff quality distance learning training***
- ***Ensuring all students have access to the technology needed to continue the learning at home***
- ***Creating plans on how to quickly transition in and out of distance learning if ordered to close by state or local officials***

Currently, the state budget for education is not as dire as initially projected, but that could change in the coming months. Schools are still facing record deferrals of funding, paired with unprecedented mandates. The demand for our resources is greater than ever with additional safety requirements, technology needs, staff training, and increased cost in operations.

NEWCASTLE ELEMENTARY/CHARTER SCHOOL * HARVEST RIDGE COOPERATIVE CHARTER * CREEKSIDE CHARTER SCHOOL*
ROCKLIN ACADEMY GATEWAY * GOLDEN VALLEY TAHOE

The Newcastle Elementary School District, an equal opportunity workplace, Celebrates Successes while Teaching to the Future.

We are currently:

- ***Prioritizing funding to support bringing all students back safely in the fall***
- ***Working to ensure budget cuts have minimal impact on the classroom instruction***
- ***Working collaboratively with our employee groups as much as possible***

As we continue our planning, in collaboration with our employee associations, the support of parents, and dedicated staff throughout the organization, we will find solutions and continue to offer the high-quality educational program families have come to expect at Newcastle Elementary School District.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we work through these most challenging of times. We will send further communications as soon as more detailed information is available.

Respectfully,

Laura Newby, Board President

Sarah Gillmore, Board Clerk

Alex Rensing, Trustee

Steve Peck, Trustee

Sam Moore, Trustee