



Date: July 15, 2020
To: Navigator Schools Board of Directors
From: Kevin Sved, CEO
Subject: COVID-19 Update, Board Action Recommended

Background

On June 30 the Board approved a plan to implement a hybrid model that provided all students with access to three hours of on-site instruction four days per week in addition to daily instruction via distance learning. The approved plan also provided an alternative option for families to choose a full distance learning model. In the two weeks since the Board approved these plans, the following events have transpired:

- 1) The daily number of new coronavirus cases in California has risen dramatically from 6,367 cases on June 29 to 11,126 cases on July 14;
- 2) On July 14, the Board for Gilroy Unified voted to start the 2020-21 school year with distance learning only;
- 3) On July 14, the Board for Pajaro Valley Unified voted to start the 2020-21 school year with distance learning only;
- 4) San Benito County was placed on the watch list for worsening coronavirus trends by the CA Department of Public Health;
- 5) Santa Cruz County and Santa Clara County experienced a significant rise in coronavirus cases;
- 6) On July 13, Governor Newsom instituted more coronavirus-related restrictions in a number of counties; and
- 7) Some Navigator staff who were supportive of returning to site-based instruction for the hybrid model are now expressing concerns about returning under current conditions.

Based on these trends and the latest information from our local districts and counties, and out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our students and families, it seems appropriate at this time to consider opening on August 17, 2020 as a full distance learning program, with limited student and family access to school sites. It will be important to decide on this matter no later than July 30 so that staff and families can have sufficient time to adjust to the changing situation.

Recommended Action

It is recommended that the Board approve the adoption of a full distance learning model for the start of the 2020-21 school year at Navigator Schools.