



Date: June 11, 2021
To: Board of Directors
From: Kevin Sved, CEO
Subject: Planning for 2021-22

Full Return to On-Site Instruction in 2021-22

Navigator is planning a full in-person return to the school sites for 2021-22, per guidance from the California Department of Public Health. We are planning to return to full classrooms of approximately 30 students per class, four days per week, for full-day instruction on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We will resume the minimum day schedule on Wednesdays for staff professional development and instructional planning. We are planning for the continuance of safety protocols related to COVID-19, including wearing of face coverings, sanitization, ventilation, limiting visitors on campus, and monitoring procedures for symptomatic students and staff. We will continue to monitor the latest changes and update our protocols as appropriate.

Consideration of Continuing Distance Learning or Providing Independent Study

The distance learning flexibility afforded public schools to respond to the COVID-19 crisis expires June 30, 2021. At this time it seems unlikely that the state will extend distance learning flexibility into 2021-22 despite ongoing concerns from some parents regarding COVID-19. State guidance at this time is for school districts and charter schools to consider providing independent study options for students whose parents are not ready to send them back to campus. Concurrently, the state approved new independent study regulations, making it more difficult for schools to meet independent study compliance standards compared to pre-COVID regulations.

To date we only have one family who has requested distance learning for 2021-22. While Navigator has provided independent study support to families for short-term situations like emergency family-related travel, we have not provided a full-year of independent study. Given the apparent low level of demand for independent study from parents, the compliance complexities of independent study, and the significant administrative and instructional lifts required to provide a strong, effective, and compliant independent study program, staff is not planning to provide full-time independent study options at this time.

Staff will continue to monitor any changes to the state's new guidelines for independent study compliance standards and possible extension of distance learning flexibility and will adjust accordingly. Given the remote learning strengths Navigator has developed over the last 15 months, exploring a robust independent study program akin to the distance learning model provided by Navigator could be an interesting strategic direction to explore in the post-pandemic educational environment. However, any such program development planning requires a significant investment of time and resources.

Watsonville Prep School (WPS) Facilities and 407 Main Street

The construction project at 407 Main Street is ahead of schedule and on budget. The targeted occupancy date is September 17, ahead of the mid-October deadline agreed upon in the construction contract with Swenson Builders. Unfortunately, this will require WPS to begin the instructional year on split-site campuses provided by Pajaro Valley Unified School District through Proposition 39.

In order to accommodate the growth of WPS, which is adding one Transitional Kindergarten (TK) class, bringing in a new class of kindergarteners, and growing to Fourth Grade (an expected increase of 85 new students), WPS will be relocating its current main office functions from an existing portable classroom to a temporary space so that the current offices can be converted into classrooms. The operations and IT teams are ready for the challenge ahead.

We are very excited to bring the entire WPS team together on a single campus next fall. Tours of 407 Main will be provided to parents and staff on June 17 and June 18. Please let me know if you are interested in joining or finding another time that would be convenient for you to tour.

Celebrating 10 Years

In 2011, a small group of dedicated educators fought to provide a top quality educational choice for Gilroy's most vulnerable students, and now that dream has reached ten years of age. Staff is currently planning opportunities and activities throughout the year to highlight this special accomplishment. These activities will be shared with the board as they are scheduled. Included in the possible array of celebrations will be highlights of Navigator alumni, outreach to local and national media, an anniversary gala event, a formal report of successes, and presentations at authorizing districts.

Academic Priorities

Academic leaders reviewed goals and outcomes for 2020-21 and planned priorities for 2021-22. Three priorities for the next school year are: (1.) strengthening English language arts best practices with a focus on writing and nurturing a love of reading; (2.) strengthening best practices in mathematics, with a focus on math fluency and daily practice of the spiraling math standards; and (3.) solidifying science instruction, including codification of the scope and sequence, as well as assessments for Grades 3-8.

Dissemination

Navigator has been providing training and support to other public schools, traditional and charter, focusing on the implementation of core components of Navigator's proven model. Please see the attached model-providing update from Crystal Toriumi, Model Implementation Coordinator, and James Dent, Chief Academic Officer.

Graduate Aims

To stamp and highlight all of the hard work and preparation students complete throughout their Navigator educational career, the 2021-2022 school year will include the launch of formal graduate aims. These aims are the product of months of conversations and work with Transcend Education to help Navigator fulfill its mission of *preparing learners and leaders in high school, college, and beyond*. The rollout of the graduate aims will be deliberate and focused, with

efforts to ensure staff, students, and families understand that our academic trajectory has not changed; rather, it is being strengthened by alignment to graduate outcomes that will prepare our students for the future. We will continue to share the rollout of the graduate aims (Table 1) with the board as we continue to implement this carefully coordinated project.

Table 1. Navigator Graduate Aims

NAVIGATOR GRADUATE AIMS

Navigator Schools

To navigate an unknown and complex future, Navigator Learner and Leaders are:

- Creative Problem-Solvers**
Are solutions-oriented and tackle problems with a range of analysis and synthesis strategies and resources to create optimal solutions.
- Courageous Change-Makers**
Are grounded in their values so that they can advocate for themselves and for others as we work to make a positive impact on our community and realize our visions for a better tomorrow.
- Collaborative Teammates**
Have skills, motivation, and an optimistic outlook to be a supportive and engaged teammate invested in our shared success.
- Academic Scholars**
Have foundational literacy and mathematical skills, and knowledge of the world that will support their ability to apply their skills to fully understanding a topic or completing a task.
- Continual Improvers**
Embrace a culture of error with a growth mindset, persist through challenge, and reflect on areas of strength and opportunity so that they can proactively pursue their goals.

We are grateful for the support of the Board of Directors, particularly during the often strenuous and challenging times of the last fifteen months. We look forward to a new school year that brings Navigator students, families, and our dedicated Board of Directors together in person.