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Dear Parents, Guardians, School District Representatives, and School Personnel:

Thank you to all the parents and staff who have completed the surveys, given valuable input, participated in reopening committees (including Conditions of Learning Committee and Continuity of Learning Committees), and those parents who have emailed, advocated, and participated in our weekly meetings. As many of you are aware, the results of the surveys stated that approximately 80% of parents and staff would like for the school to go back full-time. There are many obstacles in our way such as constantly changing guidance requiring frequent pivoting of plans and increased demands for space created by that guidance; however, we are fortunate to have such a wealth of partnerships to help with our goal of reopening safely.

Our goal of providing the optimum quality and quantity of IEP services as safely as possible has been further refined to offer hybrid in-person options by the ESY and 5-day per week instruction starting in the fall. It is expected that the hybrid options will be administered from the Peapack campus, yet we do not have a location finalized for the regular school year. For those parents and districts that request virtual instruction only we will still be able to provide that. Parents and districts may also request that one-to-one paraprofessionals or one-to-one nurses be sent to the homes during phase 2.

In order to reopen we are offering medical grade PPE for more protection of all stakeholders. We have drafted agreements that will be reviewed by the DOE, DOH, and PEOSHE before we send school staff into homes and/or hospital rooms. We are designing a hybrid schedule with elementary teachers, paraprofessionals, and therapists in person for the ESY. High school teachers will only be virtual if approved by the DOE. This would provide more content level specialists and a more regular high school schedule, rather than one teacher teaching all subjects. As soon as our hybrid schedule is developed it will be shared with all stakeholders, so that districts can plan transportation, and parents and staff can plan their schedules.

Once again, we thank everyone who has come together to work on our shared goal. We thank the School Board Members, the Somerset County Executive Director's Office, the Department of Health, and all the hospital staff that have supported us this year and continue to offer their assistance. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please email mathenyschool@matheny.org.

On Behalf of the School Community

Bill Kent,
President/CEO/Executive Director

Sean Murphy,
Vice President of Education/Principal/Director