

Dear Families and Staff;

Last night the Board of Education voted to support the recommendation for the creation of Full Day Kindergarten in 2021-2022. There were several elements to the FDK recommendation and the proposed realignment of the elementary schools, and a few of them were debated amongst the community. But now that the BOE has voted to move forward it is important for us to come together as a community. I, of course, want to thank the Board of Education and all those who supported the initiative. I also wanted to thank those who stood opposed as your feedback made for a better final product and several of your suggestions were incorporated into the final plan. It is important that we now focus on the path forward and remember that in the end we all want the same thing: an excellent education for our students.

Now that the recommendation has been approved, there is a great deal of work that needs to be done. We have contracted the traffic study, and we have a scheduled meeting next week with the BHPD. Over the past 30 years, BHPS and BHPD have worked collaboratively to determine safe paths to school for our students. This included everything from the physical routes themselves to the number and location of crossing guards. We look forward to continuing this excellent relationship with the town and the BHPD, to make sure that all our students are safe traveling to and from school. We also look forward to continuing the Safe Routes to School grant program the township is pursuing that was interrupted by Covid.

In addition to planning for the implementation itself, we are still investigating some of the suggestions brought forward in the listening sessions and last night's BOE meeting. I will keep you updated if we can incorporate any of these ideas into our implementation. Going into the listening sessions we knew that no matter how meticulously we had planned, there would be items we did not think of. Again, your feedback was invaluable in making the plan better. As we move forward, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

In other news Governor Livingston's Model U.N. in commemoration of Holocaust and Genocide Awareness month is hosting Mr. Greg Serian who will be speaking about his grandmother's experience during the Armenian Genocide. The event is on the evening of May 6 from 7-8:30pm with a Q&A to follow. The event is open to the entire community and is generously sponsored by the BHEF. The sign up link for the event is [HERE](#).

Finally, I'm very happy to report that our Covid cases are dwindling. The entire state is in Yellow (moderate) activity. We have been "all in" since early April and our cases are not increasing.

New Cases (since 4/22 update)		
School	Staff/Student	Result
CMS	1 Student	Last Day in School 4/27 Close contacts notified
GLHS	3 Students	Student 1 is remote Student 2 was last in school on 4/23 Close contacts notified Student 3 was last in school on 4/26 Close contacts notified

Have a great weekend!
Sincerely,
Dr. Melissa Varley