



Dear Norse Nation:

Trying to lead during these constantly changing circumstances is challenging, to say the least. No matter what is shared in this email, some people won't like it. Nonetheless, I'll provide the best guidance possible after a weekend of seeking answers. My focus is to continue to keep all kids and staff safe and healthy while teaching and learning.

On Friday, October 2, 2020, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that Governor Whitmer did not have the authority to issue COVID-19 Executive Orders after April 30, 2020, under the Emergency Management Act. The Court also ruled that the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act, an alternative basis for issuing the Executive Orders, is unconstitutional. The Governor has stated that the decision is not immediately effective and that all current Executive Orders could remain in place for at least 21 days. Members of the Legislature have opined that the decision could have immediate effect. Action by a federal court could also impact the decision's effective date. Public opinion is all over the map on this issue.

Until we receive clarity on this decision, legal guidance received recommends that NMPS continue to comply with our board-approved COVID-19 Back to School Plan, Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, and orders from Public Health - Muskegon County.

What does this mean for NM?

Based on the requirements and recommendations of the Michigan Safe Start Plan, a team from NMPS developed our "Return to Learn Plan," which was approved by the Board of Education, the Muskegon County Intermediate School District, and Muskegon County Public Health. We have been guided by this document since the start of the school year.

After careful consideration and unless authorized to do differently, we will maintain our current course for the 2020-21 school year as adopted and approved in our "Return to Learn Plan."

We do plan to seek additional guidance in the days that follow and will update our school community as information is gained. In the meantime, I am hopeful our community will continue to support the difficult decisions that we are faced with as we move forward.

As stated in a previous communication to our school community, we will continue to investigate ways to expand our programming. These decisions will continue to be made with the following in the forefront: The Physical Safety of our School Community, the Mental Wellbeing of our School Community, and the Academic Preparation of our Students.

Take care!

Dr. Babcock