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June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of BTPS Students,

We are now in the final month of the 2019-2020 school year and what a year it has been! March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 marked the beginning of a year-end that we will not soon forget. As much as the end of this year has been different, the upcoming 2020-2021 school year appears to be one that might provide a new start-up experience! It is important that we share what schools might look like in the fall and do our very best to prepare for the possible options. The Minister of Education has shared three likely options for school start up in the fall.

They include:

**Option #1** – Schools will start up as they normally would with students coming to the school building and face-to face instruction occurring much like it would in a typical year.

**Option #2** – Schools open at the start of the year and are subject to health restrictions that will affect how we operate (group sizes, social distancing, modified program, etc.).

**Option #3** – Schools remain closed to students for classes and learning at home will occur under new expectations.

The Board of Trustees of BTPS and your senior administration team is working with the schools to put plans in place. We will be prepared to implement the best option when we get direction from the Minister of Education, Adriana LaGrange and the Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Hinshaw. We anticipate the school re-entry guide will be released soon and we will be able to share it with you. From this guide, we will prepare detailed re-entry plans. **An important part of this planning will be to hear from parents about how they feel about the three options. We really need to hear from you and have prepared a short survey that will help us to understand what you think. You can find the link to the survey in the body of this email. We apologize for the short turn around, but we need your input by June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.** We will need to prepare a plan for each of the three options. We understand that on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 the Minister of Education will announce which one of the three options the Province will use for re-entry. We will communicate that decision to you and once again ask you about your plans for your children in terms of returning to school or to continue learning from home. This will allow us to consider staffing needs and how we can best support your children.

We believe that we are well prepared to accommodate options #1 and #3. A traditional start is one that we have done many times. Of course, we realize that some accommodations might need to be made, but feel we can do so with little disruption for our students. Learning from home is what we have been doing during the last three months. While we understand that the expectations of the student workload may change, we think that with your help, we have been very successful. Option #2 will require some planning between now and school start. We will need to consider physical distancing during the school day, the sharing of equipment and resources, student hygiene, custodial priorities, transportation, programming for students and how we will address self-isolation expectations when exposure to COVID -19 is suspected.

We want to thank you for your patience and support over the past few months. We realize that many of you are hoping that things will return to normal for the start of the school year. We have the very same hope. At the same time, we are committed to being prepared to start the new school year in whatever fashion that we need to in order to support our students. This is not the last communication that you will have from us on this matter. Please take time to complete the survey by **June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020** so that we can consider your thoughts as we look to the future.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Bob Allen in black ink, consisting of the letters 'B', 'A', and 'N' in a stylized, cursive font.

Bob Allen  
Superintendent

Handwritten signature of Lanie Parr in black ink, appearing as a stylized 'L' followed by 'Parr' in a cursive script.

Lanie Parr  
Board Chair