



PATCHOGUE MEDFORD CONGRESS OF TEACHERS



DEAR COLLEAGUES,

WE HOPE THAT THIS MESSAGE FINDS YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES DOING WELL. IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT AUGUST IS UPON US, AND THAT SEPTEMBER IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER. WE HAVE BEEN MEETING WITH THE DISTRICT MULTIPLE TIMES EACH WEEK TO DISCUSS THE PARAMETERS OF THE RE-OPENING PLAN. WE ARE SURE YOU CAN IMAGINE THIS IS AN EXTREMELY FLUID SITUATION. AS WE WORK WITH THE DISTRICT TO RECTIFY THESE PROBLEMS, YOUR CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS AND INTERESTS ARE AND WILL REMAIN OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY.

WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING WHAT STEPS THE DISTRICT IS AND HAS BEEN TAKING TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR WORK ENVIRONMENT IS SAFE. THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE FOCUSED ON BUILDING CLEANLINESS, THE DISINFECTION OF BUILDINGS EACH DAY, AS WELL AS, TEMPERATURE SCREENINGS FOR FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN FOCUSED ON THE PARAMETERS INVOLVING OUR WORK WEEK. WE UNDERSTAND THE FACT THAT TEACHERS WILL NEED ADDITIONAL PREP TIME TO DELIVER INSTRUCTION IN BOTH HYBRID AND FULL REMOTE MODELS, WHILE ALSO BEING MINDFUL OF THE TYPICAL AMOUNT OF TEACHING TIME WE DELIVER IN A NORMAL SCHOOL WEEK. WE CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE FOR OUR MEMBERS TO HAVE THE ABILITY TO WORK FROM HOME ONE DAY A WEEK. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS OPTION WILL BE AN ASSET TO THOSE WORRIED ABOUT HEALTH CONCERNS DUE TO OVEREXPOSURE, AS WELL AS THOSE WITH CHILD CARE CONCERNS.

AS WE ARE ALL AWARE THESE STRANGE TIMES DO NOT PROVIDE US WITH A WORK AS USUAL POSSIBILITY. WE BELIEVE THAT THE ABILITY TO ADAPT IN THIS UNIQUE SITUATION WILL BE PARAMOUNT TO OUR SUCCESS. PMCT MEMBERSHIPS' UNIQUE GIFT FOR FLEXIBILITY LED US THROUGH A DIFFICULT SITUATION THIS PAST SPRING. IT IS THIS VERSATILITY THAT WILL BE OUR GREATEST STRENGTH AND OUR DEFINING CHARACTERISTIC DURING THESE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES.

RECENTLY, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPTED THE HYBRID REOPENING PLAN AND SUBMITTED IT TO THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. YOU CAN ACCESS THE PLAN ON THE DISTRICT'S WEBSITE. HOWEVER, UPON REVIEW OF THE PLAN, YOU WILL NOTICE IT DOES NOT GET INTO THE MINOR DETAILS OF EXACTLY HOW INSTRUCTION WILL BE DELIVERED. WE HAVE LISTENED TO ALL

OF THE COMMENTS AND CONCERNS YOU HAVE SHARED DIRECTLY WITH US, AS WELL AS WITH YOUR BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES. WE MET AS AN EXECUTIVE BOARD ON MONDAY EVENING TO DISCUSS WHERE THE DISTRICT STANDS IN REGARD TO A MYRIAD OF SITUATIONS. REST ASSURED, NONE OF OUR MEMBERS' QUESTIONS ARE BEING OVERLOOKED. ONE OF THESE CONCERNS, REGARDING CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS, HAS BEEN ADDRESSED AND SETTLED. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU CONTINUE TO ASK THESE VITAL QUESTIONS. AS ALWAYS, THE PROBLEM-SOLVING POWER OF OUR COLLECTIVE MEMBERSHIP IS FAR SUPERIOR THAN THAT OF A FEW. AS THINGS MATERIALIZE IN A FINALIZED PLAN, WE HOPE TO HAVE CONCRETE ANSWERS TO THESE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS.

FINALLY, WE HOPE TO DELIVER TO YOU VIRTUALLY, THESE FINALIZED ANSWERS BY BUILDING, LEVEL, AND/OR DEPARTMENT. IF THERE ARE ADDITIONAL CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO SPEAK WITH US, YOUR LEVEL VICE-PRESIDENTS, OR YOUR BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES. AS ALWAYS, YOU CAN REACH US BY SENDING AN EMAIL TO UNION@PMCT.ORG. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND RESOLVE.

IN SOLIDARITY,

KEVIN & CHRIS