

September 25, 2020

Dear Live Oak Charter Community Members,

Last week I sent out a communication regarding my recommendation to extend distance learning to at least November 6 with the opportunity to review circumstances at least two weeks prior. Since then, it is becoming increasingly clear that we will need to extend distance learning beyond that date for a variety of reasons, including:

1. Sonoma County is still in the [purple tier](#) (widespread).
2. Before joining the red tier, the county will need to meet the red tier (substantial) criteria for two consecutive weeks.
3. Once red tier criteria are met, schools must wait an additional two weeks.
4. Schools are responsible for contact tracing.
5. Schools are responsible for COVID testing for all staff.

Last night, I recommended to the Board of Directors (BOD) to extend distance learning through the 15th of January. You can review the BOD distance learning resolution [here](#). In addition to the aforementioned list, this date allows us to experience the Thanksgiving and Winter breaks and allow for enough time to self-quarantine after being around extended family, travel, gatherings, etc. before potentially coming back to school in January.

I know distance learning poses many challenges and hurdles. Teachers and students are in two separate locations, technology is a main tool in accessing learning, and it can be exhausting to manage. Who knew this opportunity to be around your children would come with so many different challenges? This situation is unfortunate and the inconvenience and /or added stress that families are experiencing at this time weighs heavy on our hearts.

Moving forward

During the summer we had five Town Hall meetings, and I want to announce that myself along with our Community Response Team (CRT) will be hosting a 6th town hall on Monday October 5 at 5/6pm. This will be an open agenda town hall to come and chat with me and/or members of our CRT relating to any school or community topic. Please note, this is not a time to address specific individual student concerns. To help us prepare for the forum, we ask that you submit your questions ahead of time to locscovidresponseteam@gmail.com.

Petaluma Education Foundation Grant

Our CRT team, supported by the leadership of Deb Fox, Jessica Umphress, and Robert Bunce grant has secured a grant from the Petaluma Educational Foundation for this academic school year. The grant total is for five thousand dollars! It will be used to improve the delivery effectiveness of our distance learning program.

Thank you for your continued efforts in helping and supporting each other. Love is in the air.

Best,
Justin Tomola