

April 27, 2020

As you are likely aware, the governor's plan for a phased reopening of Montana included the option for schools to reopen on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the discretion of local school boards. The Somers District #29 Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> to determine how we will proceed for the remainder of this school year.

Having met with the Flathead Superintendents' group and the City-County Health Department, my recommendation to the Board will be to continue with our Remote Learning Plan for the rest of this year. The guidelines for keeping students and staff safe during a return to in person education are simply too difficult for our schools to comply with. I believe our current remote learning plan will be more effective and safer and healthier for all involved for the weeks that remain.

Teachers and support staff will continue to communicate with families and students to meet individual needs. We will continue to provide free breakfasts and lunches to anyone 18 and under Monday through Friday at both Somers & Lakeside. Our principals may work collaboratively with staff to determine if a student should be invited for a 1:1 check for academic or social/emotional support, consistent with Governor Bullock's April 22 Directive.

I regret the ongoing hardships that Remote Learning creates for families. At the same time I believe it is vitally important to proceed cautiously with the health and safety of our students and staff and their families as our highest priority.

Thank you for your understanding and support during these difficult times. Please keep your focus on staying safe and healthy. Things will get better.