JAMESVILLE-DEWITT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

July 7, 2020

Dear Jamesville-DeWitt families and staff:

While we wait for more information from the Governor and the State Education Department on reopening this fall, I wanted to update you on the work we're doing here in the district to prepare to the best of our ability. Our work is focused on three areas: education, well-being and facilities.

Regardless of whether we return in-person or restart remotely, we know that we must identify learning gaps from the spring closure and develop a plan to address those challenges. In our plan for the possibility of remote learning, we're addressing challenges brought forth by the community and also providing professional learning for staff. The social-emotional needs of our students and staff is also a priority. For us, this means identifying universal supports for whole school safety, prevention, and more intensive strategies to support the most vulnerable members of our school community.

Over the next few weeks, we are also reviewing our facilities and the physical environment to ensure the health and safety of students and staff when we are physically able to return to school.

To help guide our reentry planning, we used the crowdsourcing tool ThoughtExchange to gather input from students, families, staff and the community regarding their feelings about returning to school in the fall. Over 1,000 stakeholders participated. We asked the question: *What are your thoughts and concerns as the district develops our reopening plan?* After sharing their personal thoughts, participants were encouraged to rate at least 30 of the thoughts submitted by others. In total, more than 1,500 thoughts were shared and rated over 67,000 times. Responses and ratings are detailed in this report.

After the exchange closed, the responses were reviewed and themes emerged. These themes are used to sort the thoughts and make it easier to identify trends in the data. Thirteen themes emerged from the data. They can be seen in the *Theme Tiles* section of the report.

I want to thank those of you who participated in this very important ThoughtExchange. We are carefully considering all of your thoughts and concerns as we develop our plan. I will continue to update the community on plans for the fall as more information becomes available. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, psmith@jd.cnyric.org.

Sincerely,

Peter C. Smith