



GOVERNING BOARD

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Executive Director of Educational Services

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June 25, 2020

Dear Parents, Students, and Community;

We would like to update you on progress this summer toward planning for the possible reopening of schools in early August and the school board adoption to cancel the July 1, 2020 graduations last evening.

- As most of you are aware, Arizona has seen a large record setting spike in positive Covid-19 cases, which has led to various safety restrictions and recommendations from the CDC and other public officials. The current rate of infection in Arizona is almost double the rate when we cancelled the original graduation events in May. We are truly saddened that the rescheduled graduations are cancelled. This recommendation and decision was based on Principals and cabinet staff leadership concerns over safety of staff and students. In addition, four of the five other scheduled districts using State Farm had previously cancelled for the similar reasons. We waited as long as possible before cancelling in the hope the infection rate would drop rather than continuing to increase rapidly. This has been a most difficult process and we are truly sorry that so many graduates have been impacted by another cancellation this summer.
- The board also took action last night to adopt a plan for opening schools remotely in August and moving to a flex hybrid schedule (on campus) as soon as advisable. Part of the process for reopening schools is to see trend data decreasing for the number of positive cases over a four to five-week period. While we are not seeing this presently in Arizona, we are hopeful to continue planning in July. The board adoption last night allows students and teachers the chance to start learning about this plan leading up to school restarting. Our second summer newsletter is coming out next week and will outline this planning schedule and inform you on what a flex hybrid schedule looks like. As we move past the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, you will also receive additional information directly from your school administrative staff for updates on this important planning work. These learning plans are subject to potential modification due to the Governor's recent Executive Order. The Cabinet and School Board will continue to monitor and adjust plans accordingly.

The School Board and Superintendent wish to extend our heartfelt understanding of the complexity of this work and various sincerely held viewpoints. It remains our mission to provide a safe and orderly learning environment for staff and students moving into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis Runyan".

Dennis Runyan  
Superintendent Agua Fria Union High School District