Dear Upper Bucks County Technical School Community:

August 22, 2020

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying time with your family. We have been working tirelessly on reopening UBCTS, including developing the UBCTS Reopening Health and Safety Plan and our Continuity of Education Plans. The UBCTS Reopening Health & Safety Plan was presented at the August 20th, Joint Operating Committee Meeting. Our Plan will guide and support us in anticipation of welcoming students and staff back to school. It focuses on health screenings, good hygiene practices, sanitation and disinfecting practices, proper ventilation and airflow, social distancing, facial coverings, transportation, food service, response for possible COVID-19 positive cases in school(s), and overall health and safety considerations for students and staff.

Plan provisions have been in collaboration with the Bucks County Department of Health and consideration of guidelines established by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. It defines how we will act when we are together in our schools. In the context of planning safety measures, the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Health and Safety Plan document does ask us to choose our Board to vote upon one of the following options on its form, as follows:

**Traditional Reopening UBCTS** plans to start the school year with a traditional opening. The start date for our students will be Sept 2nd. We will be keeping the schedule that has been approved by the joint operating committee. All proper safety precautions will and are set in place for a safe return to UBCTS. (This option will depend on the Governor’s order and not impose any new restrictions other than the face mask mandate).

**Hybrid/Staggered Start This** will and can easily be executed if Mandated by the Governor’s office. Hybrid/staggered model would be for all of our students whereby approximately half of the students will be in the building for live instruction for their Career and Technical program, while the other half of students remain at home and follow their daily schedule remotely. UBCTS students would meet face- to- face two days a week and would be required to participate remotely three days a week. Example: Pennridge and Palisades will meet face to face Tuesday and Friday. Q-town will meet Mon, and Thurs. Wednesdays will be a full virtual educational day for all students. Those students who may need additional support or help on projects may use this day for make-up work. Wednesday will also be an opportunity for disinfecting/cleaning and ventilation of the school buildings. (this option would stay the same the entire semester or until further notice from PDE, and or the Governor’s office)

At this time, the total reopening, appears to be the most feasible option for Career and Technical education. It will reconnect students with teachers, schools, and each other. It would also provide the best in-person opportunity since the county COVID cases are at a low. If the cases start to increase, we can easily move to the hybrid model mentioned above.

**The Traditional Opening plan has been approved by the Joint Operating Committee Meeting (9-0) as part of the Health/ Safety Plan.**

Thank you for responding to the survey earlier this month. Your responses are integral as we continue to develop our plans while keeping in mind the overall impact our school has on the entire Upper Bucks community. We will be asking for more input from our community soon. We appreciate your patience, understanding, and continued support as we prepare and are excited for our students’ return to school.

John J Sweda
Executive Director

The Upper Bucks County Technical School is an equal opportunity educational institution.