MUSD's leadership team has been working since April on a wide range of plans against seemingly endless possible scenarios. We have worked toward some future that never seems to come. We want the community to know some important pieces of information. We want to be nothing short of honest. We are very disappointed that today (October 27th) Madera County slipped back into the PURPLE or WIDESPREAD designation. With this news we feel the need to tell our community clearly that although we are working hard to reopen and listen and learn from parents and teachers on how best to improve, we do not see a timeline that provides the chance to return students to campus before January. We need to double down our efforts on improving distance learning, properly assigning and assessing learning and growing all our digital skills. We are engaging in listening sessions with our teachers now and gaining valuable insight. We have gotten very important feedback from our Parent Advisory Committee and now even from our Student Trustees' voice teams. We will do our level best to engage students, find ways to build the best relationships we can and honor the efforts of our parents who are working so hard with us. We are constantly evaluating the situation and have a strong reopening framework. Rest assured, we have not stopped our planning to reopen and implore our community to practice health and safety measures that support our entire community, schools, and local economy. We all have to do our part to bring back our students.

I would like to thank the leadership of our labor partners for their support and problem-solving these last several months. This has been incredibly difficult. We truly appreciate the spirit of collaboration you've shown throughout this incredibly trying pandemic and all the challenges it has caused.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge how many of you went the extra mile for your students and colleagues today. Halloween is typically a time to share a laugh and some silliness. Fun is often in short supply these days and we all recognize that October is almost always the month with the lowest morale. The change in weather is welcome and so is the extra hour of sleep. Your dedication, even when it feels like you're emotionally running on empty, is deeply appreciated. Our students and your colleagues need you as part of their solution when they, like you, are dealing with so many problems.

Thank you, everyone.

Todd