

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT
By
Scott Johnson, District Administrator
August 2020

Greetings to All District Residents!

This school district report is a summary of current events happening in school and a summary of actions taken at the monthly school board meetings. We understand that some residents are not able to attend school board meetings but would still like to stay informed of the great things that are occurring. This report is our attempt to keep you informed and to be as transparent as possible with our community and staff.

This report will appear on a regular basis in our district newsletter, our school web page, and our school Facebook site so that everyone has equal access to finding out what is happening in the New Auburn Schools.

- The August regular monthly school board meeting was held on Monday, August 24, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. That meeting was followed by the Annual Meeting of the School District at 6:00 p.m. The school board also conducted a special meeting prior to the August regular monthly meeting. Below is a summary of school district happenings:

- **School Board Officer Changes** - The school board accepted the resignation of Shannon Berg for the office of school board president. Shannon requested the school board appoint another board member for this office who could lead the school district with more experience. The school board reorganized the school board officer positions as follows: Tim Nelson-President, Tanya Leo-Vice President, Shannon Berg-Treasurer.

- **Resignations/Hires** - The school board accepted the resignation of Virginia Lowe as Spanish teacher, and approved the hire of her replacement, Jessica McCurdy. Portia Haugestuen was hired as the part-time custodian, and Kim Breuer was hired as a new middle school teacher.

- **Budget Updates**- As a matter of business, the 2019-2020 school budget was amended to include the final adjustments for the year ending revenues and expenses. The new 2020-2021 budget was adopted by the school board so that it could be presented and

explained at the annual meeting. The new budget reflects a \$124,442 deficit and a mill rate of 0.01101431.

- **Fall Sports** - The school board took action to approve a motion to carry-on with the fall sports schedule as planned. This decision followed some ongoing discussions at the state and local levels that gave cause for all school districts to consider cancelling fall sports, moving fall sports to the spring, or proceeding forward as planned. These discussions were initiated due to concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and potential risks to our student-athletes.
- **School Board Handbook** - School Board President, Tim Nelson, distributed and reviewed aloud some information from the Wisconsin Association of School Boards that outlined proper practices pertaining to the roles and responsibilities of serving as a positive and effective school board member.
- **Coaching Changes** - The school board accepted the resignation of Louise Cody as middle school girl's volleyball coach, and hired her replacement, Kristi Gotham.
- **Annual Meeting** - Tim Nelson was elected chairperson of the annual meeting. Jan Kunstmann was appointed clerk. The 2020-2021 tax levy for the school district was approved by district electors at \$3,380,972. This levy is subject to an adjustment at the October school board meeting, once the official school enrollment and equalized valuation of the school district property can be included in the formulas. The projected mill rate for this tax levy is currently set at 0.01101. This means the school taxes will be calculated at a rate of \$1101 per \$100,000 property value. The electors also approved the annual resolutions authorizing for the sale of property no longer in use, acquiring real estate if needed, providing food service to students, furnishing textbooks, purchasing vehicles, borrowing necessary funds, and paying for legal fees if needed. School board salaries were set with no increase in pay, and payment for school board member travel outside of the school district was authorized.
- **School Year Start Up** - Our staff spent this past week involved in our inservice training as we are preparing for the new year. Needless to say, these are some challenging times in education. Our staff has been diligently preparing their classrooms and lesson plans for our students who will be arriving this coming Tuesday, September 1st. At the same time, our staff has been receiving training on how best to provide all students with

instruction at home, should the need arise. Every student will be receiving their own personal computer device that they will practice using in school and be trained on how to take the device home for instruction, if needed. We have several new staff members this year and they have all been fully engaged in this training. We are very excited for our students to return to school to see their friends and staff.

- **School Buses** - I wanted to give a reminder to all district residents that our school buses will be running on Tuesday. Please remember to watch for our students standing at bus stops and walking out to the school buses, or those walking and riding bikes to school. Please be very careful to yield to school buses with the flashing lights and stop signs extended. It might be a good idea to leave a few minutes earlier for work on Tuesday, in case you find yourselves behind a school bus.
- **Building Use** - We want to remind families that due to our COVID 19 situation, our building will be closed to public access during the day, unless you have made arrangements to meet with staff members. Also, parents are reminded to remain in your cars at the end of the day. Students will be escorted out of the building to the parking area. After school hours, our building will also be closed to everyone except our school sponsored activities. We will be using this time to conduct extra cleaning and sanitizing of the building on a daily basis.

If we can be of assistance in answering any questions during these changing times, please be sure to contact the administration.

Thank you in advance for your patience, cooperation, and understanding.

Scott Johnson
District Administrator
715-237-2202, ext. 1110

Lori Hebert
Principal
715-237-2202, ext. 1531

Carl Rudi
Dean of Students/Athletic Director
715-237-2202, ext. 1516