

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT
By
Scott Johnson, District Administrator
July 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 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 July school board meeting was held on Monday, July 20, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Below is a summary of school district happenings:

- **Public Hearing-** All public schools in Wisconsin are required by law to conduct performance evaluations on all teachers in accordance with the Educator Effectiveness standards established by the state. Due to the COVID-19 closing of public schools for the final three months of the 2019-2020 school year, it was impossible to complete those evaluations. As a result, the state offered to waive those requirements once each school district held a public hearing to notify the public of such a request for a public waiver. The waiver was automatically granted.

- **Office Staff Wage Scale** - Something that has not existed in our school district is a defined wage for our clerical staff. We have four different positions with four different sets of duties and responsibilities. Now that we have had some recent changes to our staffing in these positions, the school board has agreed to set a defined wage range for each position, which is comparable to similar positions in school districts similar to ours.

- **Graduation** - The commencement exercise for the Class of 2020 was held on Friday, July 10th. If you were unable to attend in person, I am hopeful that you were able to watch the ceremony that was live streamed on our Trojan Television on our district website. We were very pleased with how well this modified graduation ceremony went. We had social distancing and face masking in full effect with the staff and students, but it

still allowed the graduates to enjoy a real graduation ceremony with their classmates. I am very thankful for the work our staff did to make this happen, and the fantastic turnout of family members for each of our graduates. It was a special day.

- **New Student Chromebooks** - I am pleased to announce that our school board voted to purchase new chrome books for our second and third grade students, as well as assign iPads to our Kindergarten and first grade students. This means that all of our students in grades K-12 will now have their own personal device they can use in school and at home. This puts our teachers in a place for every grade level to be better prepared in the event we need to close school and teach our students at home.
- **Driver's Education** - Mr. Peterson will be starting classroom driver's education in just a matter of days. If your child is supposed to be taking driver's education this summer and he/she has not been registered, please contact the high school office as soon as possible.
- **School Year Start Up Plans** - Our back to school, reopening plan has received preliminary approval from our school board. These plans are being sent to parents through our student software known as Infinite Campus. We are sending all families a copy of the plan, along with a few survey questions. These survey questions will provide us with some very valuable information we need to complete our final back to school plan. It is our plan to give parents the option of keeping their children home and receiving virtual online education, or send their children to school five days a week. We need to know how many students will be kept home and how many students will be showing up in school. We also need to know how many students will be riding our school buses. It is very important that we hear back from all parents. Please watch for your instructions on how to complete and return this survey.
- It is also very important to be sure that parents understand that while we are going to be putting many safety precautions in place for our students and staff, it is impossible for us to guarantee any person's safety. Putting your children on a school bus and sending them to school will come with risks. Parents need to understand they are assuming those risks.
- We all want our students back in school to enjoy the most normal experience possible. In order to make that happen and keep the school doors open, it is vital that everybody does their part in upholding the safety restrictions that have been approved by the school board. This includes the staff doing their part to comply with and enforce the sanitation rules in their classrooms and hallways. It includes the students doing their part to socially distance and abide by the rules. It also includes parents signing a form

agreeing to several assurances. Please remember, none of this is being done to inconvenience our families. It must be done and enforced if we want our school doors to remain open. Please look for a link on this newsletter to view the back to school plan that is awaiting final approval.

- **Cleaning Machine** - We have also received approval to purchase a new machine that is capable of doing a deep clean on our floors, walls, bathrooms, and locker rooms. This will provide our maintenance staff the opportunity to better clean all of our surfaces to a higher grade of sanitation in less time.
- **Meal Prices**- In accordance with the state meal plan regulations, the meal prices for the 2020-2021 school year have been increased by ten cents per meal.
- **Resignations** -The resignation of Julia Fossum, School Nurse, was accepted.
- **New Hires** - The school board also approved the following new hires: Tony Gordan-Night Custodian; Maxwell France-Middle School; Amy Eidahl-Middle/Elementary School; Jessica Rundhaug-School Nurse; Karson Rihn-JV Girls Basketball Coach; Tim Trowbridge-Volunteer Girls Basketball Assistant Coach. Congratulations to all new hires!

*As a special note, our building will be closed to the public until further notice, with the exception of the district office, which will continue to be open for business each day.

As always, community members are welcome to contact me with any questions. Thank you for following this column.

Scott Johnson
District Administrator
715-237-2202, ext 110