

The School District Report
By Scott Johnson, District Administrator
November 2020

Greetings to All District Residents!

The November School District Report will focus on our school district's attention to COVID-19. It is our intention to do everything within our power to keep our students, families, staff, and community as safe and healthy as possible.

- The biggest piece of news is that our school board has decided to extend our temporary school closure until January 4th. They had very thorough discussion and weighed all of the pros and cons. The bottom line is that they are genuinely concerned about the health of the students and employees. They understand this is not the best educational situation for our students or staff, but they took all of your comments from my survey very seriously. They understand the difficulties and challenges you have been facing as teachers, as well as the extra challenges for students that are trying to go back and forth between in-person and virtual learning. Thank you all once again for your input. I think it made a significant difference in how the school board addressed this matter.
- Our teachers will be given the option of teaching from your classrooms or your homes. Please do whatever works best for you, but if you decide to come into the school, please remember that you are not allowed to gather and visit. You are asked to mask up and socially distance when you are in the presence of others. It is also a good idea to let our custodial staff know when you are in the building so they can disinfect your area. Above all, do not come into the building if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Please follow the well-established CDC guidelines.
- Our school board talked about the importance of taking time to visit with the students online and offer them some extra time to just socialize and enjoy some personal visiting. They recognize how much the students are missing in the way of their social interactions and they are hoping that you will all continue offering something fun and special that will help students fill those gaps.
- The school board addressed the question of support staff wages. All support staff will be allowed to work to earn their regular pay. The administration will assign you to specific duties during this temporary closure. Some of you will be assigned to the kitchen to assist with preparing meals. Some will help in delivering meals. Some will be assigned helping students online with homework or their virtual classes. Some may be assigned other miscellaneous duties as needed. Ultimately, the school board wants you to basically work your half day if you are part-time, or the equivalent of a full day if you are full-time. If you are unsure of what your assignment will be, please talk to Lori.
- Teachers who are prepping on Thursday and Friday and need some help, please contact Lori to arrange some paraprofessional support.

- Support staff members who are parents of school aged children and need to stay home with their children will be paid at the 2/3 rate as established by federal law.
- If you are a support staff member and do not want to work your full schedule for various reasons, it will be treated as unpaid leave.
- Meals will continue to be prepared and delivered for families requesting them. These meals will be provided on the days that school would normally be in session. Karen and Lori will determine the days and hours for preparing the meals and delivery. That will be announced very soon.
- After much discussion, the school decided to allow both middle school and varsity athletics during our closure, but they may not start up practices or games until November 30th. This will allow for a three-week period of time when students will be out of the school building. The conference already ruled that middle school parents are not allowed to attend away games, in order to allow the home team parents to socially distance in gyms. Our athletes will be issued a limit of four tickets per family to attend home games. Our home games will all be played in the large gym.
- In other news, the school board approved the annual election notice and amended the budget.
- Andrea Gribble was hired as the girls' middle school basketball coach. Thanks to Andrea for filling in this late vacancy.
- Brandy Warren was hired as our newest custodian. Please be sure to welcome Brandy to our district when you see.

That is about all I can think of right now, but I'm sure we will have much more for you as we go along. Feel free to send me any questions. I thank you all for your flexibility and dedication to your students.

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