

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT
By
Scott Johnson, District Administrator
September 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 on 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 September school board meeting was held on Monday, September 21, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Below is a summary of school district happenings:

- **Back to School Plan** - The school board spent a considerable amount of time discussing the latest concerns regarding masking. Both sides of the issue were heard, with the administration reviewing how neighboring school districts and the Lakeland conference schools are all taking different levels of precautions. Some schools are strictly enforcing masks while others are not. There are also different levels of mask enforcement at extracurricular events. The administration asked the school board to make a decision on what they wanted enforced because the Governor's order was about to expire. One parent argued the masking requirement was ineffective and an unnecessary expectation of students, parents, and spectators. Ultimately, the school board approved the following rules on face masks, which will be revisited each month:
- **Masking Requirements Updated on September 21st** - A lengthy discussion was held for the purposes of considering any changes to our current back to school safety plan that is in effect. Here is a summary of everything that was decided.
 1. Students and staff will continue to be required to wear masks every day in school, even after the Governor's order expires on September 28th. (Please note: The Governor's extended order was issued the very next morning, effective through November 21st.)
 2. Students or staff with special conditions or needs will be allowed to wear a clear visor in lieu of a face mask.
 3. All other social distancing and hand washing practices will remain in place.
 4. For all indoor extracurricular activities, all athletes, coaches, game officials, staff, and the public will be required to wear masks to enter an indoor sporting event. Clear visors will be allowed in lieu of a mask for those people who require this accommodation.
 5. For all outdoor extracurricular activities, masks or visors will be recommended, but not required, provided social distancing is practiced between people not in the same household.
 6. Any person refusing to comply with this requirement will be denied admission.
 7. Attendance at the events will be limited to the conference maximum of six tickets per family.
 8. All visiting teams and spectators will be required to meet our standards when on our campus.
- **School District Goals** - The School Board adopted fifteen new annual goals for the school year. These goals were developed by the staff through six different school improvement committees. Each committee consisting of approximately six teachers and support staff employees will be spending time every month working to accomplish the goals they put in place. The ultimate mission is to engage the staff, administration, and school board to find fifteen different ways to improve the New Auburn School District throughout the course of the 2020-2021 school year. Each committee will be reporting back to the school board on the progress they have made at mid-year and year-end.

- **Short Term Borrowing** - Action was taken to authorize a short-term line of credit up to \$350,000 for this fiscal year, in the event our district would experience any cash flow needs. This is something that is done each year, just in case there would ever be a need. Our district has never had to short-term borrow yet.
- **Letter of Credit** - Action was also taken to approve a letter of credit through Security Bank. This action basically ensures our district financial assets are protected for up to 1.1 million dollars, above and beyond the protection already offered through Security Bank. This is something that is done on an annual basis.
- **Job Posting** - The school board decided to open a search immediately to begin a new process of finding a new school district bookkeeper to replace Jan Kunstmann upon her retirement in June. The school board decided the position needed to be advertised as a vacancy that was open to all internal and external interested parties.
- **Resignation** - The school board accepted the resignation of Melissa Taylor as special education paraprofessional. Mrs. Taylor was a very good employee that resigned for personal reasons.
- **New Hires** - Several new hires were approved as follows:
 - David Huss - Special Education Paraprofessional
 - Karson Rihn - Honor Society Advisor
 - Breahan Hovde - Honor Society Advisor, Prom Advisor
 - Rachel Huss - Student Council Advisor
- **School Board Meeting Notices and Agendas** - We recently received a parent comment about the school board meeting notices and agendas being available on too short of notice for public viewing. Here is a summary of how district residents can find notices of future meetings and agendas:
 - All regular monthly meeting agendas are published in the Bloomer Advance newspaper the week before the meeting occurs. The date, time, location, and agendas appear on each notice.
 - The school district web page will have a list of all known regular monthly meeting dates. (www.newauburn.k12.wi.us)
 - The district web page will also post a copy of the regular monthly meeting agendas, as quickly as one is available and can be posted.
 - All meeting notices are posted on the windows of the district office entry and at the Post Office at least by Friday the week prior to the school board meeting.
 - In the event of the need for a special school board meeting, as required by law, we will always post the meeting in a minimum of two public places (School Entrance and Post Office) at least 24 hours prior to the start time of the school board meeting.
 - In the event of the need of an emergency school board meeting, the meeting shall be posted in two public places (School Entrance and Post Office), no less than two hours prior to the start of the meeting.
 - If any person feels they still cannot find the meeting notices or agendas in a timely manner, I encourage them to call the school office and let us know. Please keep in mind that agendas are subject to change right up until 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

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

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