

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT
By
Scott Johnson, District Administrator
April 2019

Greetings to all parents and community members of the School District of New Auburn!

The school district report is a summary of current events happening in school and a description of actions being taken at the monthly school board meetings. We understand that some residents are not able to attend the school board meetings or other activities going on in school, but would 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 April monthly school board meeting was held on Monday, April 22nd. Below is a summary of actions taken by our school board:

- **School Board Election** - The April school board meeting is always held on the fourth Monday of April following the school board election. This gives the school board an opportunity to swear in those board members who are elected, as well as reorganize officers and delegates on the school board. McKinze Berg was sworn in as the newest school board member and Tim Trowbridge recited his oath of office as the returning incumbent. McKinze now replaces Wayne Dachel on the school board. Welcome McKinze! The election of officers went as follows: Tim Trowbridge-President, Tim Nelson-Vice President, Jennifer Robey-Treasurer, Shannon Berg-Clerk
- **Building Lettering and Numbering** - The school board was scheduled to review bids from companies who will letter the entrances and number the exterior classroom windows as a step to make our school safer in the event of a crisis. This matter has been tabled for one more month to allow the companies more time to complete their bids. This project is being funded through a safety grant provided by the Department of Justice.
- **Therapy Dog** - The school board held a lengthy discussion and voted in favor of contracting for the services of a therapy dog to be made available for students. The owner and keeper of the dog will be Mr. Kowalski. He will be responsible for purchasing and training the service dog. The dog will be very selectively chosen so that students with pet allergies can still be around the dog. Much more information will be coming out in the near future from our school counselor's office regarding how this program will operate during the next school year to help students with social and emotional hardships. In the meantime, donations are being accepted to help offset any costs for the school district to receive this annual service for students. As of today, over 25% of the first year's costs have been already donated. Any person or organization who would like to donate to this cause is encouraged to contact Mr. Kowalski in the school counselor's office.

- **Board Policies-Volume 27, #2** - Throughout the year our school board reviews and updates various school board policies as needed and as advised. The school board approved a first reading on amendments to some of the policies contained in volume 27, #2 in March. They approved the required second reading at the April board meeting. Those policies can be found on the district web page.
- **Snow Days vs. School Days** - Our last surprise snow storm from Mother Nature caused our school district to be closed one last time before Old Man Winter would leave us alone. The extra snow day has resulted in our school year being extended to include a full school day on Friday, June 7th. The teachers will also be expected to report one more day on June 10th in accordance with their contractual obligations.
- **New Desktop Computers** - Forty new desktop computers were approved for purchase on a bid from Krista Computers. These new work stations will replace older computers that were installed back in 2012. In computer years, that makes them practically antiquated.
- **Facility Tour** - Due to some weather problems, the school board did not take a tour of some outdoor facilities last night as planned. They will be looking at the condition of the outside stairway by the commons and a portion of the running track for potential repairs. These are only points of discussion at this time.
- **Resignations** - The resignation of Mrs. Beck, Interventionist, was officially accepted for the end of the school year. Best wishes to Mrs. Beck in her future. Thanks to Mrs. Beck for serving the students of New Auburn.
- **New Hires** - I am very pleased to announce that one of New Auburn's former graduates is now returning to New Auburn to become a member of our instructional staff. Dallas Rayburn was hired last night as our new high school English teacher, starting next year. I think Dallas is going to make a great addition to our team of teachers.

Brady Rinn-Foss was also officially hired as our high school assistant track coach. Mr. Rinn-Foss has been serving in that role since the start of the season so this action was merely a formality. It is fantastic to see our younger staff members stepping up and filling these coaching and extra-curricular vacancies as they arise.

- **2019-2020 Instructional Compensation** - Our school board took action to set next year's teacher salaries with a 2% wage increase. Teacher contracts are due in their hands by May 15th, so this allows the district office staff to complete that contracts and have them issued to all instructional staff on time. Teachers have until June 15th to sign and return their contracts.
- **District Vacancies** - We still have two open positions for next year. The district receptionist position has been posted for three weeks and the review of those applications will begin this week. Interviews will likely occur within the next couple of weeks with the hope of a final decision by mid-May. This position will begin on July 1st.

We also have a middle school math position that we need to fill. We have a limited number of applicants at this time. Interviews will begin tomorrow for this position.

- **eSucceed Virtual Charter School** - This is a great time to inform the community that the New Auburn School District has partnered with other districts and was successful in applying for and receiving a large grant designed for the purpose of starting a virtual charter school. This school is designed to give local students, as well as students all over the country, an opportunity to complete their high school graduation requirements in a non-traditional school setting. If the traditional brick and mortar public school no longer meets a student's needs, they now have the option of open enrolling into this program to meet their compulsory attendance requirements and graduation requirements. We are expecting this alternative school to be a fantastic answer to families who are struggling with finding a different option for their children. Students in eSucceed charter school still eligible to participate in school sports and other activities. New Auburn resident students can enroll on a part-time or full time basis in eSucceed. For further information, please look for the link to eSucceed on the school web page.
- **Graduation** - Special Reminder: Graduation is on Friday, May 24th at 7:00 p.m.

As always, community members are welcome to contact or visit the school with any questions.

Happy Spring to All!!