

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT
By
Scott Johnson, District Administrator
May 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 May monthly school board meeting was held on Monday, May 13th. Below is a summary of actions taken by our school board:

- **School Board Policies** - The school board reviews the district policies on a regular basis and receives recommendations on changes that need to be made from time to time. The school board must perform two readings at two different school board meetings prior to making any changes to the school board policies. The May meeting included various changes that are being considered to a handful of policies and were approved for a first reading. The school board will revisit those changes for a second time in June prior to approving the changes at a second reading.
- **Building Lettering and Numbering** - Our public will soon be seeing a system of letters and numbers that will appear on the outside of our school building. This work is part of our safety grant that is another step to make our building safer. Our main entrances will be lettered and each room in our building will be numbered. The letters and numbers will be a reflective material that will be visible by day or night in the event of an emergency. Emergency personnel will be able to be directed to a specific location if needed by seeing these labels. We expect this work to be done within the next month.
- **Athletic Code** - Each year the athletic director and principal get together to submit proposed changes to the school board relative to our student athletic code. The changes typically arise from changes in the state laws, court rulings, or simply by experiencing events throughout the year that need changing in our policies. The school board approved these changes and the new handbooks will be reviewed with the parents and athletes at an upcoming meeting that will happen before the school year is over.
- **Facility Repairs** - The school board discussed three potential areas in need of repairs. The first area is the running track. Due some weathering, the track is in need of resealing and relining. We will be getting bids on this job for the school board to review. This is a preventative

maintenance cost that will save the district a large amount of money by keeping the pavement on the track in good condition so that we do not have to repave the entire track any time soon. We also have a problem with the concrete pad that encompasses the press box/concession stand on the football field. We have received an offer by Mr. Dan Patz to donate the labor to replace the concrete. We will be accepting this offer and repairing that concrete because in its current state, we have water running back under the walls of the press box. Special thanks to Mr. Patz! And our last area to consider is the concrete stairway area outside the high school office. The Board decided to leave that area alone for the time being due to costs. The concern was raised that at certain times of the year, the concrete shifts and creates gaps between the walls and the sidewalk and steps.

- **Band Saw Bids** - The technology education shop recently replace our old band saw. The old band saw was advertised for sale by bid. We received two sealed bids and the highest bid went to Mr. Dennis Webb. Congratulation on your new saw Mr. Webb
- **New Hires** - The school board took action to hire our new middle school teacher who will be teaching middle school math, plus helping out with a little bit of science and social studies. Mr. Ethan Anderson was hired to step into this role. Mr. Anderson has been working in our school district as a student teacher this year and has done a great job for us. We feel lucky that Mr. Anderson liked his experience here enough to be ready to start his career with us. Welcome aboard, Mr. Anderson!
- **Extra-Curricular Advisors** - The school board also took action to hire all of our extra-curricular advisors for next year. We are very pleased to get all of these positions secured well in advance.
- **District Receptionist** - The school board took action to began the two-year process of replacing our district office staff. Mrs. Bonnie Halberg will be retiring in the summer 2020. To prepare for her departure and have somebody on staff trained to do many of things Bonnie has added to her job description for the past 30 years, the school board hired a district receptionist that will begin on July 1st. Louise Cody was hired to serve as the new district receptionist from July until April. In April, she will be moved into an administrative assistant role to begin learning the payroll and bookkeeper position that will be vacated by Mrs. Jan Kunstmann in the summer of 2021. Shannon Stouffer was also hired to replace Louise Cody as district receptionist, but she will not begin her duties until April 1, 2020. By properly training two people well in advance, we hope to allow for a smooth transition as two of our most dedicated employees leave their very important positions.
- **Graduation** - Special Reminder: Graduation is on Friday, May 24th at 7:00 p.m. Special congratulations to all of our 2019 graduates!!
- **Summer School** - Summer school begins Tuesday, June 11th.

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

Enjoy the warming temperatures with grass growing and leaves opening on the trees!