

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**  
**By**  
**Scott Johnson, District Administrator**  
**April 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 April regular monthly school board meeting was held on Monday, April 27, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Below is a summary of discussions:

- **Public Hearing** - The evening began with a public hearing for the purpose of letting any district resident speak in regards to the school board asking the state to waive the hours of instruction law that school districts must follow each year. The state required this formal procedure before officially waiving the attendance requirement that was impossible to maintain once all schools were required to be closed. No public comments were offered.
  
- **Attendance Waiver** - The school board took action to agree to request the state to waive the hours of instruction requirement due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  
- **School Board Election** - The April school board meeting is usually held on the fourth Monday in April because that is the month of the school board election. This election resulted in virtually no change on the school board. Staci Martinson was the second highest vote getter which meant she will fill the final year of the three-year term vacated by Jennifer Robey last August. Staci was appointed by the school board last August to fill the remainder of Jennifer's second year of her three-year term. Shannon Berg was the highest vote getter and secured a new three-year term that started with the April 2020 board meeting. Congratulations to both of these ladies!

- **Election of Officers** - The school board took action to elect officers and the result is as follows: President-Shannon Berg, Vice-President-Tim Nelson, Treasurer-McKinze Berg, Clerk-Staci Martinson.
  
- **COVID-19 Update** - The school board decided that our last day for students this year would fall on May 22nd. This will give the students the following week to turn in assignments before the staff finish up and go on summer break. Teachers will continue providing online and at-home study materials and packets for the students through May 22nd. Teachers will be officially done on June 5th. Students received letter grades through the end of the third quarter, but all students will be graded on a pass/fail system for the fourth quarter. Fourth quarter grades will not be averaged into the overall grade point average. The teachers are providing enrichment and review type educational activities in an attempt to do our best to keep students connected with school.
- **Graduation** - Unfortunately, our commencement exercises for the Class of 2020 have been postponed, due to the pandemic. It is our hope to still conduct a full graduation ceremony on the evening of July 10th, but again, this is very tentative as we wait to see what restrictions we may still be under at that point in time. We will issue an update about graduation following our May 18th meeting.
  
- **Summer School** - The school board approved a three-week summer school that will occur at the beginning of August, provided the state restrictions to bring students back into the building are lifted by then. It is our hope to spend a three-week summer school session getting students caught up on any work and skills in which they have fallen behind. Mrs. Guest is the Summer School Director and she is currently taking registrations. For more information, please look at the school district website.
  
- **Resignations** - I am sad to report that we have some resignations this month. Miss Mason, Principal, was offered a position in her hometown of Fall Creek. She will be leaving as of June 30th. We are sad to see her go. Mrs. Powell, High School Science, and Mrs. Goodman, Middle and High School Business Education and Athletic Director have also both resigned to accept other teaching offers. We will miss both of these ladies. I now have all three of those positions posted. We are interviewing for a new principal this week, so we hope to find a new principal very soon. The interviews and hires will follow that.
  
- **New Hires** - Eric North was hired as the new Varsity Head Coach for girls' basketball. We still have the junior varsity position for girls open at this point.
  
- **Health Insurance** - The school board approved a one-year renewal on the group health insurance plan that included a 4.9% increase in costs.

- **Dental Insurance** - The school board also approved a one-year renewal on the group dental insurance plan that included a 0% increase in costs.
  
- **Student Insurance** - The school board also approved a one-year renewal on the student supplemental health insurance that can be used once a family's primary medical insurance has been applied. This also reflected a 0% increase in costs.

\*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 or visit the school with any questions. Thank you for following this column.

Stay healthy folks!

Scott Johnson  
District Administrator  
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