

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT
By
Scott Johnson, District Administrator
August 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 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 August regular monthly school board meeting was held on Monday, August 26th, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Directly following the monthly meeting, the Annual Meeting was held in the school library at 7:30 p.m. Below is a summary of actions taken by our school board at the regular monthly meeting:

- **Student Board Resignation** - The school board accepted the resignation of fellow board member, Jennifer Robey, nearly two years prior to the end of her three-year term on the school board. Jennifer moved out of the school district so she was unable to complete her term. The board has asked any school district residents interested in filling Jennifer's term to submit a written notice of interest to the district office by this Friday, August 23rd. The school board will interview board candidates approximately one hour prior to the September 23rd school board meeting, and probably take action to appoint a new member at that meeting.
- **Building Lettering and Numbering** - As a part of the safety grant we received, the interior doors in the building have now been labeled with room numbers corresponding with the outside numbering system. These improvements were paid for through a safety grant and will make our building a safer place because emergency agencies will now be able to proceed faster to a specific location in our building, if necessary.
- **School Budgets and Levies** - The school board approved the final amendments necessary to close out our budget from the previous fiscal year. They also approved the new budget moving forward that was presented to the electors during the budget hearing of the Annual Meeting. The electors approved the new tax levy of \$3,268,627 for the 2019-2020 school year. This results in a mill rate of 11.58. This is otherwise explained as a \$50 raise on local school property taxes per approximately \$100,000 worth of personal property. Any district tax payers or electors that were unable to attend the Annual meeting, but would like further explanation, please feel free to reach out and contact me.

- **Vacancies** - In response to community feedback and discussion at the school board level, our school district will be making all job postings much more simplified. We will now be following a simple practice of posting all job openings publicly. Previous policy called for job openings to be posted internally for three days, prior to any public job posting. We will be eliminating the internal posting requirement and posting all job vacancies publicly. This means jobs may be posted in the local papers, on our social media sites, and also at the main entrance to the district office.
- **Personnel** - We are pleased to announce that only two teaching positions needed to be filled with new employees this year. It is always a good sign when the amount of changeover in a school district is minimal. Mr. Ethan Anderson has been hired as our new middle school math and science teacher. Mr. Dallas Rayburn (former New Auburn graduate) has been hired as our high school English teacher. Mrs. Louise Cody has been hired as our new District Receptionist. Mr. Brian McFaul and Mr. Mitchell Hanson have been hired to fill our two custodial positions that became vacant due to retirements. Mrs. Brittany Sonnerberg was also hired to fill the JV Volleyball position that was added due to higher numbers of girls out for volleyball this season.
- **Open House** - All parents and community members are reminded that our back to school Open House is Wednesday, August 28th from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to meet our new staff and welcome back our returning staff. We hope you can stop by and say hello.

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

Scott Johnson
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