

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**  
**By**  
**Scott Johnson, District Administrator**  
**October 2019**

Happy October 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 October regular monthly school board meeting was held on Monday, October 28, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Below is a summary of actions taken by our school board at both meetings:

- **Special Presentations** - The varsity sport coaches for the fall season provided presentations to the school board to summarize the outcomes of their seasons in football, volleyball, and cross country. Each coach was able to report to the school board about personal improvements each athlete experienced, in spite of the overall team records being less than what they hoped. We are very appreciative of our coaches and other advisors who choose to work with the youth after hours.
- **Washington D.C. Trip** - Our middle school students are being given the opportunity to fundraise for and participate in a trip to Washington D.C. This trip will be something that is optional for students who are interested and have the ability to raise the necessary funds to participate. The trip is tentatively scheduled for the summer of 2021 if we have any students who express an interest in being a part of this trip.
- **Vacancy Policy** - The school board approved a second and final reading on some language pertaining to future job vacancies. All vacancies will continue to be publicly posted giving all interested candidates an opportunity to apply for any vacancy. It is the intention of the school board to hire the best candidate for any job vacancy.
- **Acceptable Use Policy** - The school board also approved a second reading on a policy that governs the staff use of electronics and computer equipment in the school district. This policy has been approved to match the exact language that already exists in the employee handbooks.
- **Land Lease** - The vacant property across from the school playground is currently ending a three-year agreement with a private local party who has leased the property for the purposes of farming. The school board just approved a new five-year lease on the land from Mr. and Mrs. Ludwigson.
- **Tax Levy and Mill Rate** - The 2019-2020 budget has now been finalized and approved by the school board. The new budget includes an increase in the overall tax levy, but due to the fact that our total school district property valuation increased this year, the overall mill rate for our school district has gone down. This means that at the Annual Meeting in August, the mill rate was projected to be set at 11.58. With the increase in property values, the new mill rate is actually going to be reduced to 10.64 on the school portion of the property taxes. This means the school taxes on a \$100,000 property will cost \$1064 instead of the \$1158 amount projected earlier. Good news for taxpayers!

- **Student Transportation After Games** - In response to a recent request from some parents, we are revising our school policy to make it easier for parents to transport their own student home from an after school event. The past practice required students to ride on the team bus back to school following an after school event, unless the parent obtained written permission 48 hours in advance. Since there are unforeseen circumstances that sometimes arise with families, we have relaxed the policy to make it easier on families.
- **School Van** - Due to the fact our school vans are aging and accruing lots of miles, the school board approved the purchase of a new special education van that will be used to transport students with special transportation needs.
- **Personnel Changes** - The school board accepted the coaching resignations from Jamie Plummer-Varsity Cross Country, Liz Cruse-Varsity Volleyball, and Karen Trowbridge-Jr. High Volleyball. Special thanks to all of these coaches for giving time to our student athletes.

Parent-teacher conferences were held last week. We had a very good turnout with higher numbers of parents attending in the secondary grades.

The end of the first quarter is on Friday, November 1st already. The school year is off to a great start. We continue to be proud of our competent and energetic staff members who are here to serve the students and parents. We encourage parents and grandparents to be involved in our school and reach out to any of us who can assist you.

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

Scott Johnson  
District Administrator  
715-237-2202, ext 106