

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT
By
Scott Johnson, District Administrator
June 2021

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 my attempt to keep you informed and be as transparent as possible with our community and staff.

This report will appear on a regular basis on 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 June school board meeting was held on Monday, June 21, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Here is a summary of what happened:

- The meeting began with a brief discussion about how the latest decision to drop the masking and social distancing requirements for summer school have been successful. We have safely completed summer school with over 100 students attending and did not experience any further COVID related problems. It is our hope that the worst of our COVID days are behind us and that we will be able to safely start the new school year mask free.

- The school board heard a report from Finance Director, Sharon Peterson, regarding our open enrollment numbers. Our current numbers indicate that we have ten more new applications for open enrollment out of the school district than we have open enrollment applications coming into the school district. These numbers are tentative because families sometimes request applications for open enrollment and then never actually send their children to other school districts. We learn about our actual numbers once school resumes in September. Our overall total open enrollment numbers still have more students enrolling into our school district than enrolling out of our school district. Those overall numbers can have a significant impact on our revenue limits.

- Federal guidelines require all school districts to develop a district Wellness Policy. This policy addresses things like offering instruction in school to students about eating healthy and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. We developed a new policy a few years

ago. As a matter of procedure, the Wellness Policy must be reviewed by a wellness committee every three years and a report must be provided to the school board to ensure our district is maintaining good wellness practices. This evaluation and report was discussed and shared with the school board at the June meeting. This report will be added to our district webpage.

- The school board has started to discuss some long-term financial concerns regarding next year's budget outlook and beyond. Our earliest figures show our allowable revenue limit is going to be significantly less than our current expenses are projected to be. I describe these numbers as early because we do not know some very important information that will have a very large impact on our final budget and levy for next year. For example, we need to know what the state legislature is going to do regarding our per pupil final dollar amounts in our revenue limit formula. We also need to know our actual enrollment, including open enrollment numbers. The overall valuation of our district property is another unknown factor that becomes part of the calculations to reach our final numbers. Nevertheless, when we can foresee a significant gap in our revenue vs. expenses, we must get proactive and look at our options down the road. One option, of course, is cutting items out of the budget. Our school board has worked very hard over the past couple of years to put things in place that is resulting in our school district offering stronger instructional learning practices and improvements in student attendance and behavior. For that reason, the school board will look at some potential areas to reduce the budget, and they will look at the possibility of offering a referendum to the district residents that will maintain the great things that have been put in place, yet not cost the taxpayers any additional money out of their pockets. The public will be kept very aware of every discussion that occurs each month regarding this concern. A special presentation regarding this matter will take place at the Annual Meeting in August. We assure you that all information will be completely transparent.
- School board policy # 4132 that pertains to vacancies was approved for a second reading. This policy provides for the requirements to publicly post all job vacancies in the school district and to hire the best qualified candidates.
- The school board approved the necessary repairs to the school running track. This will include routing all cracks, two layers of seal coating, and relining of the lanes and exchange zones. This work will be done this summer.
- As a part of our long-range roofing plan, two sections of our roof were repaired in May.

- The school board accepted the following resignations: Shannon Stouffer-Receptionist; Elijah Lopez-Summer Custodian; Sarah Ranum-Four-year-old Kindergarten; Ashley Rodencal-MS Special Education. We wish these folks the best in their futures and thank them for their service.

- The school board made the following new hires and transfer: Crystal Galetka-Summer Custodian; Cole Pederson-Summer Custodian; Keena Dahl-Summer Athletic Director; Dan Brinker-Physical Education, James Reif-Secondary Principal Grades 6-12; Jill Bergh-transferred to 4K. Congratulations to all new hires and welcome aboard!

With summer vacation in full force, I would like to encourage families to enjoy this time of year as much as you can. I hope our students get a chance to swim, bike, go camping, visit relatives, read, and just play hard. This was a very challenging school year and they made it!

Special thanks to all parents for the compromises you all made with at home learning, virtual parent conferences, and limited extra-curricular activities.

Special thanks to our teachers, support staff, and all other essential workers in our community who worked throughout the pandemic to get us to where we are.

Have a wonderful summer!!