

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT
By
Scott Johnson, District Administrator
April 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 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 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 March school board meeting was held on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Here is a summary of what happened:

- The April meeting was the reorganizational meeting following the April election. The three new school board members are Lindy Reimer, Louise Cody, and Nick Jones. Congratulations to all three members! Special thanks to the outgoing school board members Tim Nelson, Tanya Leo, and Staci Martinson! The election of officers ended up as follows: President-Lindy Reimer, Vice-President-Tim Trowbridge, Clerk-Louise Cody, Treasurer-Shannon Beg. Louise will also serve as the board's CESA 10 representative. Lindy will serve as the school board convention delegate.

- The school board met twice in April to revisit the masking rule that has been in place since the start of the year. Parents opposed to the masking requirement were present to express their disagreement with masks. They requested the school board to make the decision to wear masks optional for students. Teachers were present to request the school board to keep the mask requirement in place. A group of students submitted a petition signed by some students, some parents, and a few grandparents. They were petitioning to stop the masking rule. After some very thorough discussions, the school board decided to allow students to take their masks off in their classrooms, provided the teachers could conduct the classroom with the students maintaining a six foot distance. Masks would continue to be required while students were in the halls and on school buses. The administration met with all students and explained the new masking requirement. Students were advised of a four-step system of consequences for not obeying the rule. The consequences range from a warning and parent notification on step one to being removed from school for a day, then a week, and then for the remainder of the year if a student continuously refused to wear his/her mask.

- The New Auburn high school schedule will be converting from a two-semester schedule to a three-semester schedule next year. For that reason, the policies governing the notification dates for scholarship winners were modified.

- One good thing that has come out of these trying pandemic years is a series of federal funds and grants that have been approved for the public schools to use in various ways. One such use is to help cover the costs of providing students with the necessary technology to learn while at home and in school. The school board approved the purchase of \$8,000 worth of new computers for the next school year with some of this funding.
- The employee group health insurance renewal rate was approved at a three percent increase. This is a fantastic rate that will help keep costs down for next year.
- Our district enjoys the ability to be a part of a seven school district consortium who share the costs to operate a virtual charter school. This is a form of online learning for families who are not finding the success they need in the traditional school setting. The school board approved a renewal of that contract.
- Our school district Facebook page is operated through a contracted service known as SocialSchool4EDU. They do a very nice job of publishing the positive things going on in school. We also renewed a three-year contract for that service.
- We decided to start exploring the concept of contracting out our lawn mowing to see if it might be more economical and practical to purchase the service, as opposed to buying our own equipment and paying our maintenance staff to keep the grounds mowed and trimmed. As it turned out, the school board selected a bid from Tom Bischel to perform all of the mowing services this summer. This will allow a depleted maintenance staff to focus on the cleaning and repairs needed inside the building.
- Our school board also approved a request to put large murals on some of the glass windows in the school that face the south. The murals reflect our school mascot and school colors. People on the inside can see out of those windows, but people on the outside will only see the large murals.
- The school board authorized the administrator to seek bids for a new school bus. Those will be reviewed at the May meeting.
- The following resignations were accepted: Cheyane Merz-Elementary Music/Choral; Ethan Anderson-Middle School Math; Steve Shackleton-Custodian; Brandy Warren-Custodian; Becky Myers-Speech & Language; Justin Todd-High School Science; Lori Hebert-Principal

- The following new hires were approved: Braxton Thompson-Spanish; Natalie Danielson-Music; Kansas North-Middle School Science; Paige Gubbrud-Middle School Math; Alyssa Rayburn-Grade Five; Elijah Lopez-Summer Custodian; Cynthia Barton-Custodian; Breahan Hovde-Girls Softball Coach; Karson Rihn-Asst. Softball Coach; Elijah Olson-Middle School Track, Ronnie LaGessee-Asst. MS Track.

We are now only one month from the end of the school year! Graduation is scheduled for Friday, May 28th at 7:00 p.m in the large gym. We will be allowing more guests this year.

Special Notice: The May school board meeting will be held on Monday, May 24th instead of May 17th.