

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**  
**By**  
**Scott Johnson, District Administrator**  
**January 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 January school board meeting was held on Monday, January 18, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Below is a summary of school district happenings:

**COVID-19 Report** - The students have been back in school for face-to-face instruction for a few weeks now. We are pleased to report that we are doing pretty well so far, in spite of the COVID situation. We currently have approximately 20 students who are in isolation or quarantine, but that number is much better than where we were in November. The students and staff are doing a great job of masking and socially distancing so that we can keep our school doors open.

The COVID vaccines are now starting to be administered to our employees. Our first wave of employees to be offered the vaccination are those who treat our sick and injured students. The second wave was offered to our special education staff. We are hopeful the rest of our staff will be offered vaccines within the next week or two.

Our school board has decided to continue following the guidance of the Center for Disease Control when it comes to our students or staff testing positive or being a close contact of someone who has. That means we are allowing students and staff who are quarantined the chance to return on the eighth day, provided they show proof of a negative COVID test. They can also return on the eleventh day without a test and no signs or symptoms.

Today the Lakeland Conference passed a new rule that will not allow athletes to participate in games or competitions for 14 days once they have been exposed to a person that has tested positive with COVID. We must follow this rule or risk forfeiting any competitions.

The COVID-19 is still a serious pandemic situation so we have to continue to be very careful. As such, all of the safety requirements as recommended by the CDC. This means all students and employees will be masked and socially distanced wherever possible. Students will still be required to meet their parents outside and the building will remain locked throughout the school day.

Our school district will be recognizing the new guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for quarantining. In short, it means that any person who has been a close contact and

ordered to quarantine now has the ability to be tested on day 6 or day 7 of the quarantine. If they test negative, they can return to school on day 8. If a person does not get tested, they may now return on day eleven, provided they are symptom free through day 10. These are changes from the CDC that used to recommend a 14 day quarantine period. These changes can help us get students back in school faster if parents get them tested after day 6 of a quarantine. The same goes for our employees.

We are going to begin to start opening our building up a little bit outside of the school day to some outside events. We started with the Red Cross blood drive that was held in the large gym on Wednesday, January 6th. That event went very well. We have also started to allow some weekend basketball tournaments in the school. The first tournament event went well and the visitors were pleased with how it was managed. Spectators are limited to two parents per athlete and several other rules get put in place for masking, social distancing, etc. This is still somewhat of a trial basis as we watch how things go. It is our hope that we do not experience any kind of a surge in virus cases. We really do want to try to start restoring some normal activities for the students, but safety will always be a priority.

In other news, our school board approved an amended edition, as required annually by law, that sets the seat limits in all of our classrooms for any open enrollment applications we receive.

Most recently, we have decided to join a small school cooperative for bidding out the cost to purchase our food supplies for our meal programs. We hope to find some savings by taking this approach.

The school board accepted the resignation of Mr. Brady Rinn-Foss, technology education instructor, effective after this school year. Mr. Rinn-Foss has been a great addition to our staff, so he will be missed. The position is currently posted.

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

Happy holidays to our entire community!

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