

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT
By
Scott Johnson, District Administrator
July 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 July school board meeting was held on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Here is a summary of what happened:

- The meeting began with a discussion to revisit the COVID situation and determine whether or not there was any interest in making any changes to the June decision to lift the masking in school requirement. No changes were recommended at this time. The school board will monitor the situation and hold another discussion at the August school board meeting.

- The school board approved the 2021-2022 preliminary budget with a deficit projected in excess of \$300,000. The purpose of the preliminary budget is two-fold. First, it allows the district to pay expenses incurred in the new fiscal year. Second, it provides a starting budget that will be discussed and reviewed at the annual meeting on August 23, 2021. It is important to note that the preliminary budget is built on several factors and calculations that will not get finalized until we get further into the fiscal year. For example, a huge unknown includes our enrollment numbers and our open enrollment numbers. Due to the fact we have to estimate these kinds of things, certain items can significantly change the amount of revenue that we will actually receive. It is not unusual to see these projections change over the next couple of months, so I encourage people not to panic at the preliminary figures. These things will be discussed in detail at the Annual Meeting. District residents are encouraged to attend to get informed. Our school board will be looking for public input as to which direction they will go and what options are available.

- The school board will be holding a special school board meeting on August 4th to get a detailed look at our budget outlook and discuss various options for offsetting the budget deficit while maintaining a top quality school program. The school board will use this meeting as a planning session to prepare for the Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing that will be presented to the public. Our ultimate goal is to keep our school board, staff, and community well informed about our school district's financial status.
- We have experienced lots of changeover in various positions in our school district from last year to this coming school year. Most notably, we have hired two new principals. In the past, we have had one K-12 principal that has tried to handle the instructional leadership role at all grade levels, while a K-12 dean of students tried handling all of the behavior, attendance, and extra-curricular matters. Mrs. Hebert was recruited to return back to the Chippewa Falls School District where we found her. Mr. Rudi decided it was time for him to fully retire. Since the opportunity presented itself, the school board decided to try something different. They hired a secondary principal and an elementary principal. The purpose of this change was to give all students and teachers the attention they deserve by having their own building principal. The one thing we learned is that one principal can just never get into enough classrooms throughout the school year when trying to cover all grade levels. We feel very fortunate to find two very good principals. Mr. Jim Reif comes to us with secondary principal experience from the Altoona School District. Mr. Dan Kevan comes to us with a ton of elementary classroom experience that will serve our elementary curriculum well. Both gentlemen have a strong background in extra-curricular activities and are very anxious to meet the students and get involved in our school activities. The new principals will be sending out a notice for a meet and greet that is coming soon.
- The school board approved a bid on our food service from Wenger's, out of Cameron.
- A bid was also approved for student accident insurance with Student Assurances. This bid came in as a substantial savings to the school district.
- Mr. Reif presented, and had approved, some minor changes to the student handbook. Changes include some reduced off-campus lunch time for students due to the change in scheduling.
- The school board also approved some minor changes to the employee handbooks.

- Other new hires in our school district include: Mark Platteter-MS Special Education Teacher; Abigail Maki-District Office Administrative Assistant; Kristin Buchholtz-Academic Success Coordinator.
- Coaching changes include Jamie Plummer-MS Boys Basketball; Braxton Thompson-MS Track; Daniel Brinker-HS Assistant Track.
- If you've driven by the school track lately, you will see the surface has been re-sealed. We are expecting the lines to be painted on the track next month.

While our students are enjoying the last month of their summer vacation, there are many people as busy as beavers on the inside of the building and behind the scenes. The race is on, fast and furious, to get the building repaired, cleaned, and polished. Special thanks to Dennis Webb for his hard work pushing his maintenance crew to meet the cleaning deadlines.

We have teachers and principals getting actively involved in setting up classrooms and offices for the new year. We have our district office staff busy tending to our summer audit, developing new budgets, receiving summer supply orders, and preparing for an annual meeting. The building and grounds are looking good and we are doing everything we can to be ready for that first day of school on September 1, 2021.

Have a great August!