

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT
By
Scott Johnson, District Administrator
September 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 September school board meeting was held on Monday, September 20, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Here is a summary of what happened:

The school board took special action to modify the COVID-19 Back to School Plan to include the following changes:

1. Students who are exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be removed from the classrooms and sent to the principals. The principals will assess the student and contact the parents to determine whether or not the student has any other underlying conditions that would be causing the COVID-19 symptoms. The principal will either return the student to class or send the student home and request the parents to have the student tested for COVID.
2. Students who receive a negative COVID test result from a certified health care facility will be allowed to return to school.
3. Students who test positive will be required to follow the 10-day isolation guidelines, consistent with the CDC requirements, before returning to school free of a fever and other symptoms.
4. Parents who feel their child's symptoms are the result of some conditions other than COVID-19 shall be allowed to take their child to a physician and acquire a doctor's note clearing the student to return to school.
5. Parents who choose to not have their child tested for COVID-19 will be required to isolate their child for 10 days, as if the child tested positive.
6. The New Auburn School District will no longer be conducting the close contact tracing. Instead, when the school district is notified that a student or staff member has tested positive for

COVID, an announcement will go out to all families with children who are considered potential close contacts. The parents will be expected to make a determination whether or not they feel their child is in danger, or exhibiting symptoms for COVID-19 and should stay home, or if they want their child to continue to report to school.

7. Face Masks will continue to be highly encouraged, but optional.

Here is a summary of other action at the September school board meeting:

- Kris North met with the board to address any questions they had pertaining to her family's therapy dog. She was approved to bring her dog to school, provided the dog is under the supervision of her or other members of her family. Students that are cleared from any pet allergies will be allowed to spend time with the therapy dog, if needed.
- Last month the school approved a deficit budget for this school year. Simply put, that means the expense side of our annual operating budget is considerably higher than our revenue side of the budget. That also means we cannot continue to operate from year to year with a deficit budget. Long story short, that means our school board would need to make budget cuts for next year, OR they would need to get a referendum passed by the district electors to increase the amount of revenue. Last night, our school board took action to move forward with a referendum that will go before the district electors in February.
- Next month, the school board will formalize a resolution that will specify the amount of the referendum to be set at \$400,000 on a non-recurring basis for three years. This referendum will likely be scheduled to go before the electors in February, assuming there will be a primary election held in February. The general public is encouraged to attend upcoming meetings and public forums that will be offered to explain all of the details for this upcoming referendum.
- Two requests for memorials in the name of Hailey Reed were approved last night. A family request was approved to display Hailey's cheerleading uniform in the school commons, in memory of Hailey. A second request was approved to plant a tree in Hailey's honor somewhere near the athletic fields. This tree was purchased and donated by the FFA Alumni and the New Auburn FFA Chapter.
- The annual short-term borrowing agreement and annual letter of credit with Security Bank were renewed.
- A \$1000 bid to purchase the most recently retired school bus was approved.
- An early retirement resignation from Dennis Webb, Maintenance Director, was approved, effective March 31, 2022. That position will be posted very soon.
- The board also accepted the resignation of Rachel Huss.

