

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**  
**By**  
**Scott Johnson, District Administrator**  
**February 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 February school board meeting was held on Monday, February 15, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Below is a summary of school district happenings:

**COVID-19 Update**

We are pleased to announce that as of February 15, we are down to just one family that is keeping children at home with Coronavirus symptoms. We do not have any positive cases of the virus within our student body or our staff. We also do not have any staff or students on an official quarantine due to being a close contact.

I believe credit must be given to all of our students and staff for complying with our requirements to wear masks and socially distance wherever possible. This has not been easy to do in the school setting and I am very proud of everyone. I am also very appreciative of our parents and community members who have supported these safety measures and made our school a safer place for everyone. Our school board has agreed to keep all of our safety measures in place for at least one more month.

**School Calendar**

The school calendar for the 2021-2022 school year is now completed and approved. Next year's calendar mirrors this year's calendar in many ways. The students will have the exact same number of school days and the staff will have the exact same number of contract days.

We will also provide the same number of student vacation days at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and spring break.

The primary difference between the current calendar and next year's calendar is that we will be switching from two semesters to three trimesters. Each trimester is approximately sixty days long with parent conferences offered during the first two trimesters. The primary reason for the change is to offer fewer class periods per day, but longer minutes per class period. This will allow the teachers more time to work with students in each class period, but also allow for students and teachers to have fewer classes to prepare for each day. It is believed that by following this new schedule we will see student academic performances improve due to more quality instruction and more study time offered each day.

A copy of the school calendar will be provided with registration materials at the beginning of the school year. A copy of the new calendar will also be posted on our web page soon.

### **Safety Drill Update**

As a continued requirement of our Safety Grant, we are required to provide training and safety drills periodically for students and staff, and report on those training sessions and drills to the school board and to the Department of Justice. The administration provided a report to the school board in February that outlined the ALICE safety training our entire staff participated in last August. This included training in the event of a dangerous intruder or active shooter in the building. The student training in ALICE had to be postponed last fall because our students were involved in remote learning from home.

Our school resource officer will be visiting one classroom at a time during spring semester and reviewing with all students their roles and responsibilities should we ever experience such an event.

Our staff also received some recent training on what to do if law enforcement ever has to secure the outside perimeter of the school grounds due to any dangerous risk that could be going on in the neighborhood of the school building.

### **CESA 10 Service Contract**

The school board approved next year's new CESA contract which allows us to purchase certain educational services at a much lower cost through the CESA office in Chippewa Falls. This

contract allows us to share the cost of certain positions or programs with other smaller school districts.

### **School Audit**

We recently advertised for bidding on our annual school auditing services. The school board approved a three-year bid from Clifton Larson & Allen. They are the same auditing firm that we have had for several years now.

### **Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR)**

Mrs. Hebert provided the school board with a report that highlights the academic goals and performances in reading and math for all students in grades K-3. The AGR program is designed to provide special funding to school districts to help keep our student-teacher ratios smaller in order to help students have a better learning opportunity with fewer students in each classroom. This report requires the school district to track the progress of students at the middle and end of each school year.

### **Federal Relief Funding (ESSER)**

Due to the increased demands on the public schools as a result of the COVID pandemic, the federal government has developed two different federal grant awards to help offset those costs. The first award for New Auburn was established last summer. Many of the expenses, including various safety provisions, cleaning equipment, and providing meals, are being charged to that grant.

A second grant notification has just recently been issued that will be approximately \$260,000 for New Auburn. This grant will allow our school board to address much bigger projects. We are currently developing a proposal to bring back to the school board that will have a process for identifying students who are at risk of falling behind their grade level in the core subject areas, due to the interruption of learning from the pandemic. It is our hope to present a plan to the school board that will use this funding to bring students back up to speed with all of their classmates. We hope to present this new plan for approval in March.

### **Resignation**

The school board accepted the retirement resignation of Jan Kunstmann. Jan has been the long-time district bookkeeper in New Auburn. Jan will finish this school year and retire in June.

Congratulations and thank you to Jan for an exemplary career and many years of commitment to the New Auburn School District.

### **New Hire**

We are pleased to announce the new hire of a former New Auburn alumni. Austin Rayburn has been hired to replace Brady Rinn-Foss as our new technology education instructor for next year. Austin has been teaching technology education in the Black River Falls school district for the past three years, but he has decided to come home to his alma mater. Austin's brother, Dallas, is already teaching high school English in New Auburn.

Thank you for following this report. Take care everyone, and let's welcome in some warmer temperatures that are in the forecast.

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Scott Johnson  
District Administrator  
New Auburn School District  
[johnsons@mail.newauburn.k12.wi.us](mailto:johnsons@mail.newauburn.k12.wi.us)  
715-237-2202 ext. 1106  
715-566-0722