



NEWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Board Highlights

The School Board would like to highlight a few items of importance following each board meeting to share what is happening around the board table.

Board Work Session – May 18, 2020 (5:30 PM)

TOPIC: Open Enrollment

An informative work session on open enrollment was held prior to the regular board meeting. A board sub-committee was formed and tasked with setting a goal to narrow the gap between the number of students open enrolled out and those open enrolled in. It is anticipated that the School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) will become a more diverse operational group, proposing future initiatives to the board.

Regular Board Meeting – May 18, 2020 (6:30 PM)

Red Pride Shout Outs

Special Education: Dr. Jessica Ferguson, Director of Special Education gave a **Red Pride Shout Out** for the creative continuous learning taking place between the special education teachers and their students.

Elementary: Fellow Principals and Leadership Team (AH); Bryan Tipton, Head Custodian (EH); Amazing Cabinet Colleagues and Darcy Hol, Secretary (TJ); Kindergarten Teachers (WW)

Middle School: Assembly / Celebration Team for their work to plan an end of year virtual celebration for BMS students.

High School: Shelly Fitzgerald, Stacey Maxwell, & Cassia Nolin for their work on academic and graduation celebrations.

WEST Academy: Bill Peters & Newton High School Staff for their work on the Class of 2020 Senior Parade.

CoronaVirus (COVID-19) Update

Laura Selover, Interim Superintendent, shared that all district buildings remain closed to the public. Administrative staff is keeping informed on the latest public health guidelines to determine protocols for a return to work plan and opening our offices to the public. Any student items that remain in buildings are being organized by staff for student pick up this week or next (schedule varies).

Grab and Go Meals (Breakfast & Lunch)

Our Food Service Department will continue to distribute Grab and Go meals through **August 15, 2020**. A total of 37,710 meals were distributed at two sites (BMS & NHS) during the month of April 2020. The Newton Community School District is fortunate to offer this voluntary program!

Groceries on the Go

Groceries on the Go will continue through the end of May 2020, and will take place every other week during the summer months. This program is coordinated with the Food Bank of Iowa. Approximately 100 boxes have been distributed to families each week.

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Return to Learn Plan

Bret Miller, Director of Teaching & Learning shared that district staff is working on a formal Return to Learn Plan that must be submitted to the Iowa Department of Education by July 1, 2020. He noted that the State is flexible, should any modifications to our continuous learning plan arise between July 1, 2020 and the beginning of the 2020 – 2021 school year. Staff is preparing for three models of instruction: 1) **Onsite Learning** (with necessary health protocols followed). 2) **Remote Learning** (required, not voluntary). 3) **Hybrid Model** (combination of Onsite and Remote Learning). We anticipate more information to follow at future board meetings, including the possibility of any recommended changes to the 2020 – 2021 school year calendar.

Principal's Reports

All principals (PreK – 12th Grade) reported on the substantial work being done by their teaching staff to support continuous learning with students and to prepare for the possible variables related to next year's instruction.

Newton High School Gym Reroof Construction Project

Construction documents for the NHS Gym Reroof Construction Project were presented by Rachelle Hines (FRK architects + engineers) and unanimously approved. A public hearing was set for 6:45 PM at the June 22, 2020 board meeting, with a contract award anticipated. The estimated cost for the project is \$320,000 with a completion date of August 14, 2020.

Certify Class of 2020 Graduates

The board unanimously certified the 2020 graduates for Newton Senior High School and WEST Academy and Mr. Peters and Ms. Zehr gave updates about graduation plans and festivities. A virtual graduation for NHS will be held Sunday, May 24, 2020 at 3:00 PM with WEST Academy postponing their traditional graduation until Thursday, August 13, 2020. **Congratulations, Graduates!**

Wage Increases

The board unanimously approved 2.25% salary increases for Licensed and Classified Groups (to include Supervisors, Managers, Head Custodians, Specialists, and Secretaries) and Administration.

Board Policies – 600 Series (Education Program)

The board unanimously approved the second reading of the 600 board policy series.

Board Policies – 700 Series (Non-Instructional and Business Services)

The board unanimously approved the first reading of the 700 board policy series.

IASBO Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award (CAFR) FYE2019

Robyn Friedman, Board President, announced that the district received the FYE2019 Certificate of Excellence Award in Financial Reporting (CAFR). Tim Bloom, Director of Business Services, gave a big **Red Pride Shout Out** to his staff for their support in achieving this award for a second year.

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