

School-Community Network 2020.21

October 20, 2020

- I. Stephanie Horak called the meeting to order.
- II. School Directory--working on getting updated data to buildings. If parent groups think their data looks funny (less than expected), you can reach out to your building secretary or to Laine for further assistance before printing.
- III. Superintendent's Forum
 - A. Feedback 2nd Semester--Need to take recommendation to the Board
 1. DLT (District Leadership Team) provided feedback
 2. Buildings providing feedback from staff
 3. Administration will give feedback on Thursday
 4. Need feedback from parents and students
 5. SCN broke into smaller groups for discussion and then shared out feedback--What considerations should be thought about for 2nd Semester?
 - a) Still should have choice of online vs in person
 - b) Like choice but didn't like being switched teachers after starting
 - c) Make choice well in advance
 - d) Families should still have a choice. More options for student in person--activities
 - e) Parent choice--challenges with being online but would still rather stay online right now. Worried about change for students...change of teacher or change of options or being forced to change to in person
 - f) Junior High--Block is long, Shake up who is part of tiger time, Need breaks to move, still want choice
 - g) Onsite and loving it. Thanks for the choice. Mask breaks are good outside.
 - h) Love having the choice. Like being all in person or online instead of hybrid
 - i) Happy with how things are going in person. Happy with the choice. Don't like teacher changes at elementary level after starting. Consider going back to the lunch room at elementary. Parents could help with cleanup.

- j) Choice is good. Like being in person and normalcy. Likes the block schedule. Likes four classes a day and every other day class to have time to do homework.
 - k) Like choice. Love the new block schedule. Like the open campus of VHS.
 - l) Like choice. Like being online and what is happening. May want to go back to in person as feeling isolated. Thought we would all be online after a while so now seeing that we can do it, may want to return.
 - m) Like choice. Want to stay at home. Online parent forum is helpful. Online kids being given more work than in person...is that true? Teaching online and in person is difficult. Consider trying to group students together whenever possible.
 - n) Going well. Still want a choice. Like eating in the classroom and nervous about going back to the cafeteria. Clear communication about what will happen if you switch from online to in person. Will the teacher change?
 - o) Like choice. Don't like the block schedule as it is too long.
6. Dr. Remy talked about the process for staffing this fall and what could happen in the 2nd semester. Will be clear about communication about moving teachers or moving schools. Also want to know ramifications of the move for next school year. Want clear deadline so things don't change.
 7. Dr. Remy talked about how many students were moved to online from in person when the rate went up according to the district guidelines.
 8. Snow Days--The district has the authority to have school online during snow days. The plan is to have online school on snow days for this school year so we don't have to make up days at the end of the school year. Staff and students need to bring home chromebook/laptop every day. Discussed when parents will be notified so they can plan. Discussed how the online schedules will work.
 9. Questions
 - a) State changed the quarantine rules. What did the WDMCS data show? Don't have specific data. There are examples of symptoms occurring and others where symptoms did not occur. Contact tracing looks different now with the new

rules. Important to check if masks were worn appropriately when a close contact.

- b) Mask Sales from the district. Money went to the foundation. When will the money go to the buildings? Checks are written on a semester basis.

- IV. Shahna Janssen--2020 Community Needs Assessment
 - A. Completed every 5 years by the Community Education Advisory Council to guide work for the next 5 years.
 - B. Strengths--Quality Schools, Opportunities, Safety, Small Town Atmosphere, Amenities, Collaboration, Diversity, Human Services
 - C. Challenges--Access to Resources, Issues at Schools, Navigating Schools, Language/Cultural Barriers, Racism/Inequity, Financial Hardships, Transportation
 - D. Conclusions: Participants value living in the WDMCS communities, Diversity is an asset, positive feedback with being welcoming and inclusive but always room to grow, resources are available but now always accessible, navigating school is a challenge on many levels, having a voice in our community and schools is important to people.
- V. Shared good things going on in buildings

September 15, 2020

- I. Stephanie Horak called the meeting to order and had members introduce themselves. Stephanie Horak was nominated for president and seconded. Dr. Shane Christensen volunteered to be the secretary.
- II. School Board President Liz Cox welcomed the group and gave a message of support for the teachers and staff.
- III. Dr. Carol Seid introduced Dr. Anthony Ferguson, WDMCS Executive Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity. He discussed the six point plan and timeline he has set up for his "listening tour." He is listening to what is going well and what are challenges. He will be developing training for all levels, conduct equity audits, look at the structure of School Resource Officers (SROs), and develop a Time Task Plan.
- IV. Dr. Lisa Remy, Superintendent, gave an overview of the beginning of the school year.
 - A. She praised staff, students, and parents for working together for a successful start. She thanked the SCN group for their support.
 - B. The Hybrid plan comes with challenges in using time differently and using technology differently.
 - C. Students have been wearing face coverings with no problems.

- D. Added two Professional Development days for blended and online learning on 9/4 and 9/14
- E. Mitigation strategies have been good and are being diligently followed. The hope is for the fewest number of people to be affected.
- F. WDMCS has moved nine elementary sections to online learning for a short time
- G. Crossroads Elementary was moved to online as a building for a short time. Waiting for waiver from the Department of Education if the building is to stay out longer than two days. We do not have the substitute teachers to cover the number of teachers who need to be gone.
- H. Lunch on the first day was rough but has been good since then and getting better all the time.
- I. A Dashboard has been added to share information on COVID numbers each week with stakeholders.
- J. Busing--The initial plan was to load from the back to the front and dismiss from the front to the back. To do contact tracing, we have moved to assigning seats so we know exactly who is sitting next to whom.
- K. Close contact is determined by being within six feet of a person testing positive for fifteen minutes or more.
- L. Dr. Remy asked Michelle Lettington, Associate Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, shared thoughts on the start of school.
- M. Dr. Lisa Remy shared comments from staff during the District Leadership Committee meeting.
- N. Questions were taken from the group
 1. Questions around contact tracing, when specific students would be quarantined versus when a full section would move to online learning, as well as, the process being used to determine who close contacts are during a 48 hours period both in school and out of school. The district works with Polk County Health during this process. The process to refute being in close contact was also shared. There is a section next to the Dashboard that shares the communication process.
<https://www.wdmcs.org/coronavirus-information/>
 2. Cleaning and disinfecting processes and procedures were discussed
 3. Some questions were asked about specific schools
- O. Dr. Remy talked about Cares Act funds, distribution of the funds to private schools, and its use to purchase Chromebooks for lower grade levels and other technology tools to better support online learning. The WDM

Foundation has been involved in helping with these endeavors as well as helping with supporting nutrition costs to feed students. Other funds have been used to hire the Heritage Group to disinfect schools, buses, etc. The district has spent more money than has been allocated and appreciates the Foundation's support to offset costs.

- P. Dr. Remy asked for celebrations and challenges from the group
 - 1. Incredibly grateful for districts efforts continuing the arts--drama, music, band, etc
 - 2. Virtual learning is going better than anticipated. Not without hiccups but has been great overall.
 - 3. Football--how can we make it safe for people to attend...people outside the fence are not being safe. All people on school property should have a face covering whether inside or outside the fence. The district is looking at allowing some students into the game but keeping social distancing guidelines.
 - 4. Canvas pages have been set up well and have helped online learners
 - 5. Gratitude for the culture and environment and positivity and calm from the top down to each building.
- V. Laine Mendenhall-Buck, Director of School / Community Relations (SCR)
 - A. Reminded about the process for using a vendor, shared the vendor process, and reminded about the branding expectations.
 - B. You can submit questions or have a vendor submit a design to the SCR email: scroffice@wdmcs.org
 - C. Additional Links to be shared Approved Vendors, etc
 - 1. [Brand/Logos Guide](#)
 - 2. [Brand Project Request Form](#)
 - 3. [District-Sponsored/Affiliate Groups](#)
 - 4. [Approved Vendor List](#)
 - D. PTAs will see money from the safety pack sales as final numbers are not in so money has not been distributed as yet.
 - E. SCR is working on a web redesign that will also integrate with the WDMCS app
 - F. PTO meetings and recommending virtual meetings instead of onsite. Zoom meeting is recommended. There will be a Zoom account tied to the building for this to occur. Facebook live cannot be supported through SCR
 - G. Positive Stories were shared by administrators and by parents
 - H. Possible Future Topics asked to be shared with her.