



Superintendent Monthly Report

October 8, 2020

Reopening of Schools

On October 5 the district transitioned into an in-person learning model at CES and BMS. In order to prepare for the transition 143 used middle school desks and 200 elementary school desks were purchased. The tables that were utilized for student group work were placed in storage. The new classroom configurations have allowed students to maintain a four to six feet distance between desks while working at their seats. We will be using the Coronavirus Relief Fund to reimburse the district for these expenses. To date, thirty-three families have elected to continue in the fully remote learning model at each school, which is 13.4% of the CES student population and 18% of the BMS student population. 100% of the staff continue to fulfill their responsibilities in our schools. The teachers and administrative team continue to evaluate our protocols and procedures to maintain an effective learning environment.

While there has been recent increases in COVID related cases throughout the State, Canterbury and Windham County continue to experience transmission rates in the "Low Risk Category," which is a primary metric in determining an in-person or hybrid learning model.

This week the administrative team has been meeting to create a full remote learning schedule. We are hopeful to remain in an in-person learning model, however, we are preparing for the possibility that at any time we may need to transition to a full or partial remote learning model. It is our intention to give parents and students ample notice of what the learning expectations will be in a full remote learning model. Draft schedules have been created and we are reviewing plans with staff.

This week we have provided some additional guidance for students, parents, and staff regarding mask wearing. The Board is reviewing a policy to add additional guidance for our learning community. Currently we encourage teachers to provide mask breaks every period for at least five minutes. Whenever possible, mask breaks should be taken outside. Guidance from the State has been to provide mask breaks "outside when possible." If it is not possible for outdoor mask breaks, mask breaks are to be provided on a rotating bases, where only some students have a break at a time, and when six or more feet between students can be maintained. If students are interacting with one another outside at recess (less than six feet separation) students will continue to wear their masks. If they are separated from their peers they can take a mask break.

September 2020

Business Office

As of October 8, 2020 the ESSER and CRF grants have been approved by the State. We will now begin the process of setting up the grant on our finance system and begin applying for reimbursement of some expenses. Each of the grants must be fully expended by December 31, 2020. The ESSER grant will provide some relief in Title I grant, which may allow us to consider restructuring the remedial reading position for the 2020-21 school year only.

The quarterly financial report reflects that current expenditures are at anticipated levels with an anticipated surplus of \$116K or 1% of the budget. It is worth noting, there are many variables that may impact our current financial standing.

Winter Athletics

Area athletics directors have started researching options for a winter athletic season. It is important to understand that rumors will start quickly whenever these conversations begin. I will meet with the middle school principal and athletic director next week to discuss CIAC guidelines, options, potential schedules, protocols, etc. If we were to have a season it would likely begin in January. I will keep the Board updated as conversations progress over the next several weeks. Stay tuned.

Personnel Report

List of all new hires:

Fred Avery - Temporary part-time custodian

List of vacancies:

Remedial Reading Teacher - CES

Temporary part-time custodian