



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING RECAP

Official publication of the ISD282
St. Anthony-New Brighton School District

ACTION ITEMS

Compliance Strategic directions: high expectations & high support

As required by the Minnesota Department of Education, this an annual action and statement made by the School Board assures that all staff members have been made aware of state and federal law and the mandated reporting law. Access to grants, title, and other federal programs to show we are compliant in the work we are doing. As we navigated the policies over the summer that we do on an annual basis show we are in compliance with state/federal law. Motion carried 6-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CS Annual Report Strategic direction: strong communication

Director of Community Services and Communications Wendy Webster presented to the board the Community Services (CS) annual report for the 2020-21 school year. Webster provided highlights and a timeline of CS programming over the past 18 months. Staff have learned to pivot quickly, collaborate and partner to ensure care and support of students.

Webster shared what the CS staff have learned over the past 18 months and what kind of impact this experience made for the children, families, staff, and the community. New job descriptions were created for staff, working in positions and buildings they haven't before. Yet, they were still able to work with the children, as before.

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CS provided mandated emergency care in 2020-21. Going beyond the mandate, CS staff looked for additional ways to provide support to families that were home with kids and community members over the age of 60. In addition, CS staff helped ensure kids received support with their distance learning, creating new skills sets for staff members.

For the 2021-22 school year, the focus is on staff development. As a certified center by the Department of Human Services, CS has an additional six hours of training beyond what is required by the district. CS staff focused on how to best support early learner's social emotional development, critical thinking skills, creativity, collaboration skills and problem solving abilities. CS remains focused on what's best for kids and following their lead. Webster explained that they meet each child where they are at— what they are bringing into the classroom—their talents, needs and gifts.

To help keep the youngest learners safe since they are not able to become vaccinated at this time, CS has required anyone age 2 and older to wear masks, regardless of vaccine status. CS has also limited the space that adults use at their program sites (year round) to help keep kids safe. One of the ways they are able to do this is through providing Central and Emerald Park pavilions for adult programming. Another example is with Early Childhood Family Education programming and keeping the classes small (limit to 12 participants).

COVID-19 Update Strategic direction: *strong communication*

Dr. Corneille provided an update to the Board about COVID-19. The District's focus and concern is on the academic needs and safety of our students. We want to prioritize in-person learning. Over the last 18 months, children were staying home from school due to the impact of COVID-19 with other generations—sacrificed to keep the elderly, those who are immunocompromised, healthy. When vaccinations became available, this community committed to becoming vaccinated. At the district, staff are at roughly a 98% vaccination rate. For students 12 and up, our vaccination rates are high.

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The School Board, Local Incident Team (LIT), and the overall community has been and continues to be committed to the district's mitigation strategies; they may be inconvenient but are effective: Vaccinations; masking; hvac system; social distancing; and staying home when sick— all of these have been done with fidelity in this community. As Dr. Corneille explained, do we have cases? Yes. Have we been able to contain those cases? Yes. With the assistance and recommendations by the LIT, local epidemiologists and District Wellness Coordinator Lori Watzl-King, and with students, staff and community for following mitigation strategies, we've recently had only three positive cases in the district with around 12 total quarantines. We have not needed to shut down a classroom or grade level.

Dr. Corneille stated that with the help of state and federal funding (ESSR II), the district is looking at providing on-site testing for students and staff. This can prevent the spread of COVID-19 due to asymptomatic symptoms. The district is hiring a COVID-19 Testing Coordinator, and utilizing community resources to acquire Cue-testing for staff. The goal is to test symptomatic staff (with parent consent), and children. We would be able to provide batch testing and in-the-moment-testing (rapid) to get a head of the spread and potentially tease out quarantines. Dr. Corneille explained that this has been a team effort— not just the board issuing the mitigation strategies— but by our teachers and administration to allow for the enforcement of wearing masks...and our students have been doing a phenomenal job! Our district is in a good place right now with being able to prioritize in-person learning.

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