Community Pulse Coalition 1.27.21

Athletics
Directors of Athletics in Westchester, Putnam and Duchess meeting to talk about starting sports
- Hoping coach practices can start next week
- COVID protocols in place – taking temps, wearing masks, potentially testing players
- No spectators indoors for now

(Post note: Since our meeting, Section 1 made decision to start winter sports in Westchester County on February 1st. COVID protocols will be in place. Fall Season II and Spring Season will follow consecutively.)

Spring Sports
- Hoping boys lacrosse will play
- School facilities will not open for outside youth teams
- Fall season sports, including football, will have a shortened season in the spring

-Rick Morrissey: Governor giving individual county health departments the call on youth sports.

Vaccinating teachers
- SCSD is coordinating with the County to get more sites open to vaccinate teachers. We have offered schools as sites to vaccinate school personnel.

-Rick Morrissey has requested a Northern Westchester location for mass vaccinating.
Challenge: have to give up that location for 6 months and need refrigeration.
County is considering pop up locations – likely drive thru. In a month or two we should have a location but without the vaccine supply it doesn’t help.

Comments from Vicki DiSanto, Somers Public Library Glenn Hintze, Somers Education Foundation on what they are hearing from community/parents:
- Lots of positive feedback, especially from elementary parents about having kids in school
- Contact tracing effective, communication about covid situation in schools excellent

Middle Years Program
Has been on pause due to COVID. Grade 6-10 teachers will start training again in the fall. About 12-18 months schedule, but still on track for transition to MYP schools in grades 6-10.

Embedded honors
In embedded honors, ‘honors’ is not a separate class for which students sign up. Students have the option to go for honors distinction in any English or Social Studies class.
This helps:
- 1. Students challenge themselves. Those who might not typically choose honors can try it without committing to an entire year of an honors class.
2. With scheduling. For example: students don’t have to choose between an honors class that is only offered 1 period, and another class, like an elective. In all Grade 9 English and social studies classes this year, students can choose to be on the honors track. Next year embedded honors will be in all 9th and 10th grade English and social studies classes.

**Budget Season**
- Expecting a flat amount of aid from state
- Typical expenses going up as expected in district. Will make that up with reserve funds.
- We expect to no effect on curriculum, extracurricular activities, Middle Year Programme, and class sizes.
- Attrition also helping with budget as enrollment goes down

**Various**
Bob Ondrovic brought up a parent group working on an adaptive playground at SIS
- Group meeting to improve playground for next year.
- Paul LaSpina suggested applying for a small grant through Lions Club. Many members would help with hands-on work as well.

We will let Principal Liz Turner know about Lions Club volunteering.

Paul LaSpina mentioned how well LEOs Club is running zoom meetings. They are organized, on point, cover everything. Incredible how they do it.

High school seniors – still trying to do lots of activities for them but it’s hard. Can’t do the big gatherings. Some parents having a hard time accepting that and asking for traditional events and gatherings.

We will meet again in March.