

Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
From: Carole McCombe
Subject: Report to the Board of Education
Date: October 9, 2020

Field Trips:

- Housing for the Grade 8 Washington, D.C. trip has been reserved for May 2021. Plans will be adjusted based on state and local guidelines as we move through this school year. Similarly, we are not planning to hold the annual Goods and Services Auction in November 2020.
- No in-person field trips will be scheduled until further notice to abide by current pandemic guidelines. Teachers are exploring virtual options.

Virtual Field Trips:

- Nothing is scheduled at this time

Eastford Readiness Program:

The Readiness Program has 13 students enrolled. Three are partial day students and one student is participating remotely.

Readiness Council Update:

The Council will hold their first meeting on Tuesday, October 6 at 5:30 PM. At this time, they will set goals for the upcoming school year and continue working to update policies.

Grants:

Readiness Grant – We have received approval for this grant. The Quality Enhancement (QE) portion has not been opened to districts at this time. We anticipate it will be soon.

Primary Mental Health Grant (PMHP) – We have received approval for this grant. We will operate a modified version of PALS this school year to abide by social distancing requirements and the possibility of full remote learning over the course of the school year. The program will include a component for identified students and a component for parents and families.

Data on Student Progress:

Teachers continue to connect with students who are learning remotely during times when students are at specials or with another teacher. Some teachers are also live streaming lessons simultaneously while they are teaching students in person. The all school remote learning day on

Monday also allows for inclusion of the remote learners with in-person learners and provides time for teachers to have smaller groups and provide 1:1 support for all students. The Reopening Committee will meet on Thursday, October 1 to discuss discontinuation of remote learning Mondays. Current health data supports moving toward a full in-person model. Families may still choose to temporarily learn remotely.

Student progress reports will go home on October 13.

Professional Development:

- Mrs. Kopplin will be attending a series of 6 virtual workshops through October and November on supporting preschool children with IEPs and supporting social interactions and cooperative play.
- Ms. Dill will attend full day training on the use of Google Classroom and free Google Tools in January.
- November 3 – election day: Certified staff will be involved in professional development around the development of our Profile of an Eastford Learner and in aligning the essential standards work from the summer with curriculum materials and resources. Time will also be spent on goal setting conferences for educator growth and development.

Educator Growth and Development/Evaluation Flexibilities:

We have requested a waiver for flexibilities in the Educator Evaluation Process. The State has waived summative ratings for the 2020-2021 school year as a result of the disruption caused by the pandemic. The waiver of summative ratings does not change the expectation that evaluators will provide substantive feedback to educators. Educators will set goals, complete a self-assessment, and evaluators will complete a narrative summary of the educator's performance. With these flexibilities, goals for teachers will need to be set that are focused on:

- social and emotional learning for students,
- student engagement and/or family engagement.

Administrator goals should be focused on:

- the re-opening of schools,
- supporting the health and safety, and social and emotional well-being, of staff and students,
- supporting remote and distance teaching and learning,
- mastery-based learning, and/or
- ensuring equity for the most vulnerable students and their families.

Technology:

We have approximately 140 computers in circulation: 80 Chromebooks, 60 Mac Airs. These are housed on 7 carts around the building. We have 20 more new Chromebooks that are on back order. All students have been assigned an appropriate device to use both in school and for our remote learning days so they do not need to share.

Community and Other Events:

- Fire Prevention- we will have a modified fire prevention day on a date determined in collaboration with EIFD.
- FRESH mentors from The Woodstock Academy are providing tutoring and homework help to middle school students. Students need to sign up in advance for a virtual time to meet.
- High School Open Houses – local high schools will be providing area middle schools with information on upcoming virtual open houses, video information and brochures to distribute to students beginning in October. Ms. Murana, school counselor, will be discussing high school options and the application process with students.
- LifeTouch picture retakes will be held on November 20.
- We received a donation of 500 adult masks from FEMA on October 1.
- Thank you to parent Jenevieve Sullivan, for her donation of school supplies, art and craft supplies and furniture from the closure of her business buildings.
- Thank you to parents for donations of gently used books for classroom libraries.
- Thank you to Mr. Christopher Bowen for donating juice and snacks for all students to have a special treat during the first few weeks of school.
- QVJC middle school sports league is planning a meeting in October to discuss the potential for interscholastic basketball.