

District Status Report

04 September

2020-2021 Report #10

The purpose for the weekly Status Report is to communicate to members of the School Board important and meaningful information relevant to the business of the school district. The Report is available to the public on the school district's website. Please contact me at 417-2602 if you have any questions regarding information contained in the Status Report. I would also appreciate hearing from you on ways I can improve the Report and make it more meaningful and informative for you.

Dale

Our Mission

**Empowering students with
knowledge and skills to succeed.**

Our Vision

**To be the school district of choice, inspiring
excellence in academics, arts, and activities.**

Information – Communication – Correspondence

1. **Construction Update** – Progress was made this past week in both buildings. Most areas will be ready for Tuesday, September 8 for students. There will still need to be some work done in the Secondary science rooms including the installation of the epoxy countertops and lab stations. The installer will be doing this work outside the school day. The new shop area is ahead of schedule with a tentative completion date of early October rather than early November. Inspections of the Family & Consumer Science (FCS) kitchen and classroom were conducted this past week. We were given the green light to operate in the FCS area.

The Elementary Office and east entrance is not yet completed. We are uncertain if it will be ready by Tuesday, but it needs to be ready for Wednesday when all grade levels begin with students returning.

Karla and I had an opportunity to meet with Knutson Construction on Thursday to review an update on the project budget. With the additional long term facility maintenance funding we had budgeted towards the project, we continue to operate within budget. I have invited Knutson Construction to provide an update on the project including the budget at the September 21 School Board Meeting.

Board members are welcome to visit both buildings to see the progress being made. Please contact the building principal or me in advance so that someone can meet you to escort you around. Keep up with some of the progress including photos by going to <https://www.nrheg.k12.mn.us/Page/3294>.

2. **School Learning Model** – As you know, the learning model for the Secondary School will shift to Distance Learning (DL) on Monday, September 14. Staff will be working with students this coming week to better prepare for the move to DL. The next threshold we would need to consider moving to is the most restrictive model of DL for all students in both buildings. The 14-day case rate needs to reach 50 before we need to consider the most restrictive model.

I have received a few questions from Board members since the decision was made to move the Elementary School to Hybrid Learning and the Secondary School to DL. Below are some of the questions along with responses.

- Are the Teachers going to be required to report to school from 8-4?

Response: Not necessarily. Per the Executive Order and MDE Guidance, we will work with staff on an individual basis to determine if they report to their worksite or if they are able to provide the same level of service remotely. This could apply to both the Hybrid and DL models but predominately DL. If special accommodations are requested by a staff member, they will follow the process as outlined in our *COVID-19 Preparedness Plan* in order to accommodate to the extent possible.

- Also, are the Paraprofessionals going to be reporting to school as well?

Response: Similar response to above with teachers.

- How will secondary students receive their meals if they have chosen to do so?

Response: Under the Executive Order and MDE guidance, school districts are required to provide meals for those students in full *Distance Learning* as well as students in *Hybrid Learning* when not “in-person” in school. Last spring, we had four distribution sites daily, one in each community; however, we had more personnel and more time to prepare and distribute. At this time, we will provide two distribution sites, one at each school building where families will need to pick up meals later in the day on Tuesday and Thursday. A survey has been sent to families

regarding meal needs and the process to use to order meals. We hope to expand distribution sites to Hartland and Geneva at some point depending on personnel availability. There was discussion about distributing meals at the end of the school day to students to take home but there is concern regarding food safety and disruption to programming. We also have examined sending meals home on buses in coolers, but this would require additional personnel to assist with distribution and recording. We are also waiting for confirmation from the state regarding the recent USDA decision to extend the summer meal program that will mean no cost to families. Until that decision is finalized, meals will be charged to family accounts.

- How are we distributing meals?

Response: The process as described above will apply to both schools for now.

- What does this mean for the janitorial staff?

Response: Custodial staffing will not change. There might be some temporary shifting of personnel between sites based on needs.

- With the elementary in hybrid, is the SAC program opened for the critical workers only, or is it opened to anyone who is looking for child care during this trying time?

Response: This question is referencing the school-aged care for Eligible Children as defined per Executive Order (DOA) 20-82. In our school district, we also offer School Age Care (SAC) as a fee-based program that is offered through the Community Education Program to our communities before and after the school day for school age children. For this response, we will use the EO definition of “school age care” which does not apply to Community Education.

Executive Order 20-82 indicates that a school district or charter school that operates a hybrid or distance learning model “must provide school-aged care for Eligible Children at no cost during the time those children are not receiving instruction in the school building during regular school hours.”

The school-age care for children of critical is intended for extreme circumstances in which no parent or guardian is at home, due to employment as a critical worker. If it is a two-parent household and one is not a critical worker, a school is not required to provide free school-age care to the family, but the school could choose to provide the care, if they have the capacity to do so while ensuring health and safety requirements can still be met.

At this time, we have only opened up our “school-age” care for during the school day (which we are also referring to “district provided daycare) to families of Tier 1 critical workers as defined in the EO. Once we have an opportunity to assess enrollment after the first week or two, we will consider opening up for non-Tier 1 families also at no cost.

Macy Whiteside has agreed to assist principals in the coordination of the district provided daycare separate from her role as Community Education Director.

- Are we required to provide transportation for daycare children?

Response: Yes, for those eligible children as referenced above.

- How long do we anticipate being in the Hybrid for Elementary and DL for Secondary?

Response: I am unable to answer this question. We will work closely with local/county/state public health officials including our Regional Support Team in determining if and when we might be able to move to a less restrictive learning model. The Board will have the opportunity to discuss the process in determining when to move to a less restrictive model at the September 21 School Board meeting.

3. **September 21 School Board Meeting to be Held at Secondary School** – Until the Board decides to convene all *in person*, it is necessary to continue live streaming the Board meetings. Due to the current technology equipment needed to live-stream the School Board meeting, the September 21 School Board meeting will be held at the Secondary School Media Center. We are hopeful to have the equipment in place as soon as possible that will allow the Board to live stream from either location. Even after the Board returns to in-person meetings for all Board members, there is the intent to continue to live stream School Board meetings. Let me know if you have questions.

4. **2020-2021 School Year Calendar Adjustment for Teachers** – In order to acknowledge the additional time needed by some teachers to prepare for the start of school on September 8 due to the Hybrid Learning model and/or to the impact of construction for some staff especially in the Secondary School, I worked with the Teacher Union President to provide teachers the opportunity to work and be compensated for a total of one day during September 4-7 in exchange for the teacher workday scheduled on November 13. This adjustment does not impact the number of instructional days for students.

School Board Calendar of Events

September 8, 2020		First Day for Students
September 21, 2020	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center/Remote (The meeting has had to be moved due to the Live-Stream Technology equipment)
October 19, 2020	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center/Remote

Dale’s Calendar for September 7-September 11 (As of 9-4-20)

Monday		Offices and Buildings Closed for Labor Day
Tuesday		First day for students
	3:00 pm	Weekly Call with Steele County Public Health
Wednesday	1:00 pm	Construction Owner’s Meeting
	3:30 pm	Weekly Call with Waseca County Public Health
Thursday	4:00 pm	MDE Call-in
Friday		In the District

Thank you for all you do!