

Minidoka County School District

# Superintendent's Report

## April 20, 2020

### Correspondence

- We received two notices from the **City of Heyburn** about a hearing to consider some zoning changes. I have a more information if anyone is interested.

### Information/Updates

- **Reopening Criteria** – In their meeting held April 16, the **State Board of Education** approved criteria for reopening schools and ending their soft closure recommendation (attached).
- **Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)** – This federal law mandates how businesses are to handle leave specifically related to COVID-19. Since we as a district are paying all employees who are willing to work this generally does not apply to us. We plan on working with those employees who have individual health concerns. We would only consider applying this to employees who refuse to work even after we have made accommodations for their safety.
- **Negotiations** – In our conversations with the leadership of the **Minidoka County Education Association (MCEA)** we have mutually agreed to hold off on negotiations until mid-May.
- **Summer School** – We submitted our application for our Alternative Summer School for our regular dates, June 1 through July 9, and Migrant Summer School from June 1 –26. However, in light of our soft closure these dates may be changed to where the Alternative dates would change to June 22 – July 30 with all days in June being online as we are now and starting busing from July 6 through July 30 and have the Migrant program start then as well. We have to end the Alternative school by July 30 in order to roll grades over for registration.
- **Summer Lunch Early Implementation** – Each summer we offer lunch to any student up to the age of 18. Traditionally we have done this at four locations throughout the District. With the advent of the soft closure we again started this program, using some of our existing sites, as outlined in the USDA's requirements. I have attached a list of current sites.

### Meetings/Activities

- **Staff/Building Visits:**

With our last board meeting just before the soft closure we have held a number of different District meetings. Some were during Spring Break\*. Here is a list:

  - Cabinet – March 18 (in person), March 26\*, 31, April 7, 14
  - District Admin Team – March 24\*, 30, April 3, 6, 13
  - MCEA – March 26\*, April 7
  - Budget – April 2, this was recorded and shared with MCEA and Mr. Ramsey.
- **Committee/Community Meetings:**

On April 10 Ashley Johnson and I were interviewed by a reporter from 6 On Your Side KIVITV, because they had seen some of our Minidoka Minute postings on Facebook.

I attended the ARTEC/ARTEI Board meeting virtually on April 15. If you are interested in more information on their actions and progress, please let me know.

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I also attended the virtual PPAT meeting on April 16.

- **COVID-19 Meeting Updates:**

In response to the unfolding events of the soft closure, I attended a number of virtual meetings before, during\* and after Spring Break:

- SBOE Board Meetings – March 30, April 2,
- SDE Webinars – March 16, 23\*, 25\*, 30, April 1, 8
- Region IV Superintendent Conference Calls – March 16, 17, 19, 20, 23\*, 24\*, 25\*, 27\*, 31, April 3, 7, 10, 16
- Child Nutrition Services Webinar – March 26\*

### District Happenings

- **COVID-19 Response** – Our teachers have really stepped up during these trying times. They are being asked to post assignments for students by 8:30 am and are doing a great job in continuing to reach out to students. Here are some other highlights that might be of interest:
  - We have increased the number of lunches (400 to over 900) because we added 9 new locations for students to get lunches and have two routes to deliver to students who can't get to the sites.
  - We are preparing packets for students who do not have internet access at home. There are just under 100 being prepared each Friday for pick up at the District Service Center.
  - We currently have just over 4,100 students with less than 100 of them needing packets. This translates to 97% of our students can participate in their learning online.
  - We have begun tracking attendance by asking teachers to identify those students who are not participating online or via packets. This was started for the week of April 6 – 10 and was to be reported on Monday April 13.
  - We have most of our kitchen staff helping with the lunch program and are rotating bus drivers through helping to deliver to the new sites and routes. All will be wearing masks.
  - We have yet to finalize the criteria for establishing grades at this time, but hope to do so in the next few days.

### Upcoming Events:

- April 21 Registration Mtg 9 am**
- April 21 MCEA Mtg 1 pm**
- April 30 Employee of the Year Reception - Cancelled**
- May 5 MCEA Mtg 1 pm**
- May 14 Retirement Reception – Cancelled**
- May 18 Regular Board Meeting 7 pm**
- May 22 Last scheduled day of school**