

Red Wing Public Schools
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Red Wing, MN 55066



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www.rwps.org

School Board Meeting Agenda Item

Topic: COVID-Related Issues
Contact(s):
Presenter(s): Karsten Anderson and Others

Nature of Action Requested by Board

Board action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Board information or scheduled report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Background Information

Introduction

This special meeting is intended to review COVID-related data; discuss substitute availability; review activities, athletics, and community use of facilities; consider requests for serving some students in-person; staff member reporting expectations; and review possible metrics to adjust back to in-person and/or hybrid learning.

COVID-Related Data

An attached document shows the latest COVID Data for Red Wing Public Schools. This document is updated every Thursday (with actual data) and Monday (with projections), so a revised document will be uploaded on Monday.

Substitute Availability

Principals compiled a sample of the high need for substitutes. Data was taken on November 16th showing how many substitutes would have been needed on that day if the district was in Hybrid or Distance Learning.

Activities / Athletics / Community Use of Facilities

Activities / Athletics Paul Hartmann will present information about the Governor's Order restricting youth sports and activities.

Use of Facilities Dawn Wettren will present information about the impact of the Order on community use of facilities.

Requests and Plans for Serving Students

English Learners	<p>Kelly Hassemer, English Learner teacher, requested in-person learning for elementary English Learners. Students would continue to learn online with their English-speaking peers while receiving the support needed to learn the grade-level content presented.</p> <p>The attached proposal provides details about implementation of the proposal.</p> <p>Recommendation: I move to approve the plan for in-person learning for elementary English Learners as presented.</p>
RWHS Students	<p>George Nemanich, RWHS Principal, requested to bring in at-risk students two times per week during Distance Learning. These are students who failed two or more classes 1st quarter during Hybrid Learning and have demonstrated a need for more supervised education during Distance Learning. Nearly 80 students would be invited to attend with up to 40 of them on Mondays and Tuesdays and the other 40 on Thursdays and Wednesdays. Some of them will be in-person due to their special education status.</p> <p>High School paraprofessionals and administrators would supervise students while they work on their online classes. Students would be located in the cafeteria if arrangements can be made with food service, and bussing would be provided.</p> <p>Recommendation: I move to approve the plan for in-person learning for at-risk RWHS students as presented.</p>
Colvill Programming	<p>A proposal was approved on November 16th related to preschool programming. Min Martin Oakes, the Colvill Family Center Director, will be available to answer questions.</p>
SPED Programming	<p>Information was shared on November 16th about programming for special education students in settings 3 or 4. Cherie Johnson (Executive Director of GCED) and Sonia Smith (Red Wing Special Education Director) will be available to answer questions.</p>
Childcare	<p>Plans for childcare were shared on November 16th. Dawn Wettern (Director of Community Education and Recreation) and/or Justin Plein (School-Age Care Coordinator) will be available to answer questions.</p>

Staff Member Reporting Expectations

As explained in an email message sent to employees:

The Governor's Work from Home Order (Executive Order 20-74) states that staff members must work from home if they can perform their essential job functions from home. The analysis about whether the essential duties of a job can be done at home should be done on a case-by-case basis and will be dependent on the circumstances of a position. School districts and charter schools should not issue blanket orders that require all staff to work in person. If a staff member cannot perform all of their essential job duties from home, they can be required to come into the school building to perform those duties that cannot be performed remotely.

If staff members feel they are being forced to come to work in violation of the Work from Home Order, they can contact the Work from Home Violation Helpline at 651-539-1132 or toll free at 833-454-0152, or by email at WFHviolations@state.mn.us.

Administrators surveyed employees about the needs of their students and their plans for in-person or remote teaching. Examples of surveys are included as attachments.

Possible Criteria for Returning to School

There are a number of factors to consider prior to returning to school, so I am hesitant to recommend firm criteria relying on a formula.

One factor should be the latest and projected county COVID rates. One example showing stabilized COVID cases within the county:

Suppose elementary students are in Distance Learning on a given Thursday. If actual or projected rates for the following four Thursdays are less than 50, then elementary students might resume in-person or hybrid learning on the following Monday depending on other factors.

Suppose secondary students are in Distance Learning on a given Thursday. If actual or projected rates for the following four Thursdays are less than 30, then secondary students might resume in-person or hybrid learning on the following Monday depending on other factors.

Recommendation(s)

See above for specific recommendations for programming. Board members will also be able to make other recommendations with regard to COVID-related issues.