

Executive Director's Report Board of Education Meeting March 8, 2021

Good News

The Salvation Army is using COVID relief funds to provide food for families in need. They are using CCS as a Drop-In Site to distribute this food. Families in need may use this Drop-in Site. This is one way that CCS is giving back to the community. I also want to thank Kris Fjelstul, Kathy Faust and Cassie Carey for helping with this project.

Hearing Tests are now easily available. Each year students in the primary grades are tested for hearing. Our nurse, Mrs. Carey, implemented a new state-of-the-art iPad hearing screening. We are happy that all students in these grade levels can now participate in the screening and have their hearing checked. This service also saves CCS the cost of hiring someone to administer and use equipment to screen the hearing of only a few select students during the year.

Camo 4 Cardio: A Cardio Challenge - Every Friday in February CCS seat-based staff and students participated in the "Let's Celebrate American Heart Month" Camo 4 Cardio. Participants either wore red or camouflage to honor heart health awareness and education. Each Friday the advisor or designated student(s) calculated the percentage of students and staff participating in Camo 4 Cardio. The class that had the highest average percentage of participation will receive a prize.

A special thanks to the Parent Teacher Organization for providing prizes for Camo 4 Cardio day. Over 92% of students and staff participated in this event.

Virtual Robotics Competition - I am excited to let you know that High Tech Kids is hosting a virtual robotics competition for students in grades 4-12 during the month of March. CCS can have as many teams of five as we want and they can compete schoolwide and statewide. Teams will meet one to two times a week. Students will solve virtual robotics challenges to sharpen their skills in computational thinking, problem-solving and collaboration. The challenge is from March 1 through March 31.

End of Trimester Celebration for Middle School Students took place on February 26. Seat-based students were recognized for their hard work, ate popcorn and did Dot Dancing down the school's halls (each student had a socially distanced dot that they danced on).

Strategic Plan - The Board of Education continued work on developing a new strategic plan for CCS. When it is eventually completed, it will set the path on which everyone can move together in the same direction to allow each child to reach his or her highest aspirations.

COVID-19 Update

Administration of COVID-19 related issues continues to include regular communications with the MDH, MDE and regional teams tracking COVID-19 throughout the community and state; remaining up to date on frequent new directives and guidelines; attending webinars and seminars; ensuring CCS has the best practices, vaccination information and latest ways to mitigate COVID-19; and providing communications to stakeholders.

COVID-19 Vaccines for School

All staff have been offered a COVID-19 vaccine. Those who chose this vaccination have all received their first shot and most have received their second shot.

Information from Crow Wing County (Michelle Moritz)

“This week we continue to vaccinate individuals 65+ and those in the 1A priority group that missed prior opportunities.

Please encourage your families to register on the state site. This list will come to local providers to invite in for vaccination when we reach their target group.

<https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/connector/>

More information on vaccine priority groups:

<https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/whos-getting-vaccinated/index.jsp>”

Crow Wing County Safe Learning Plan Data

The number of new COVID cases per 10,000 continues to fall. Crow Wing County officials expect the number to be around 16 with the following week in the lower teens.

Returning to the Classroom

Overall, students and staff seem pleased that CCS has returned to In-Person Learning. Since the return, we have had no cases of COVID-19 in the school.

Mitigation Procedures CCS Continues to Use:

- All staff will wear masks
- Limited access to the building for parents, volunteers and other community members
- Social distancing of 6 feet when possible
- Limited field trips to places that do not have large numbers of people. For example, we may go snowshoeing on some of the trails at the Crosslake Community Center
- Buses will be at half capacity or less for transportation routes and field trips
- Parents/Guardians/Families are encouraged to drive their students to and from school when possible
- Student meal time will be held in the cafeteria with appropriate social distancing.

On-Site Testing

- On-Site Covid Testing for staff continues. This is offered to all staff and takes place before and after school. The Governor stated schools are expected to execute the Covid-19 testing program every other week for all school staff. School staff have the option of whether they want to participate in the testing. Students are not allowed to access this testing.
- The Minnesota Department of Health has requested schools to continue Covid -19 testing, including testing of staff who have received the vaccine.

The Numbers

CCS ADM Breakdown for School Year 20-21 as of 2/28/2020

- Budgeted ADM is 325
- ADM Submitted to State is 343
- Total Number of Students is 371
- Number of Online Students is 222
- Number of Seat-Based Students is 149

End of the Year Surveys for Students, Staff and Parents/Guardians

The Board of Education is in the process of updating school surveys for students, staff and parents/guardians. These surveys provide feedback that helps improve student learning at CCS. More information about the surveys will be available toward the end of April.

Fiscal Year 22 (School Year Fall of 2021 to Spring of 2022)

Next year's budgeting process is underway. The Finance Committee will hold a Financial Planning Retreat in mid March. The Finance Committee is responsible for:

1. Developing an annual operating budget with staff.
2. Approving the budget within the finance committee.
3. Monitoring adherence to the budget.
4. Setting long-range financial goals along with funding strategies to achieve them.
5. Developing multi-year operating budgets that integrate strategic plan objectives and initiatives.
6. Presenting all financial goals and proposals to the Board of Education for approval.

ESSER II and ESSER III Funding

There have been a number of new articles and stories about the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES). The acronyms for the CARES Act funds are as follows: Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief (ESSER).

The purpose of these funds are to provide charters and districts with emergency relief funds to address the impact of COVID-19. There is a focus on learning loss and equitable services to students and teachers.

ESSER I funds have been distributed to CCS. The state is waiting for ESSER II funding. ESSER III funding is in legislation and has strong support at this time.

Interviews for the Director of Seat-Based Learning

Interviews for the Director of Seat-Based Learning position begin the week of March 8. Representatives from the Board of Education, staff, parents/guardians and students will participate in this process.

2021-2022 School Year Final Proposed Calendar

The proposed calendar includes school year start and end dates, vacations and other important dates. It is based on the 2021-2022 calendar of the Pequot Lakes School District.

The calendar has 168 student days. In each case of inclement weather, we will use one of five available E-Learning Days. The E-Learning Days count as a full day of school and minimize the risk of an extension of the school year. Minnesota State Statute requires 165 days of school for full funding and lease aid. If CCS exceeds five E-Learning Days, we will use up to three Snow Days for extremely cold or snowy weather. If the CCS school building needs to close for more than eight school days, we will be required by the State to extend the school year.

An E-Learning Day is a school day where a school offers full access to online instruction provided by teachers. CCS will inform parents/guardians about an E-Learning Day the day before a predicted snow storm or extreme cold. Teachers will ensure students bring home their assigned computers.

Instruction During an E-Learning Day

During an E-Learning Day the following happens:

- Instruction will be given by a highly qualified teacher. Instructional areas (subject areas) are determined by the grade level teacher and will include music and/or physical education. Middle School students will receive instruction in all core areas, as well as music and/or physical education.
- Teachers will use Google Classroom and live video to deliver lessons. Additional materials and homework, if applicable, will be provided through Google Classroom.
- Technology use may include a link to a video or a video feed, such as YouTube. Other online programs, such as Benchmark or iXL, may also be used.
- Instruction will occur between 8:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m.

E-Learning Days and Snow Days are Reported to and Posted on:

- CCS Facebook
- CCS Phone Message
- A text to all families who previously provided CCS with a text-capable cell phone number
- [The Power Loon, KLIZ-FM 107.5 FM](#)
- [WJJY 106.7 – Today's Best Variety](#)
- KRJB - R & J Broadcasting (Six Brainerd Lakes Area stations)
- [KSTP TV - Minneapolis and St. Paul - News, Weather and ...](#)
- [News Talk 830 WCCO Radio Minneapolis, MN | RADIO.COM](#)
- [FOX 9 Minneapolis-St. Paul](#)
- KARE 11

Policies Reviewed, Revised or Adjusted

- 424 License Status
- 601 School District Curriculum & Instruction Goals
- 615 Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs and Section 504 Plans

Modifications Based on Osprey Wilds Reviews and Requirements

- Website Information Updated
- CCS Safe Learning Plan Updated
- Annual Report Updated
- Exhibit G - Academic Goals
- Exhibit H - Environmental Education Goals
- Exhibit S - School Improvement

Review and Research Processes Taking Place

- Compensation packages for staff
- Insurance and benefits for staff
- Job descriptions of all staff positions
- FY22 Projected Budget and Budget Assumptions
- Applied for PPP Loans Forgiveness and awaiting federal government response
- Budget adjustments for FY21