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School Board Meeting Agenda Item

Topic:Return to School (Updated)Contact(s):Fresenter(s):Karsten Anderson, Superintendent

Nature of Action Requested by Board

Board action Board information or scheduled report

Background Information

Superintendent Anderson will provide an update and answer questions about the Return to School Plan.

We will also review quarantine standards used by the district to see if/when changes are warranted:

Communication of Quarantine Standard

During a board meeting on January 7th (beginning at about the 5-minute/30-second mark of the board video), Shanda Jorgenson presented information about quarantine options:

- 7-day quarantine option requiring a negative test after day 5
- 10-day quarantine option
- 14-day quarantine option

There was no formal board action, but our intention to follow the 14-day quarantine option for students was clearly communicated to board members and the public. Other district communications reinforced this plan. As a result, the Superintendent does not intend to implement a different standard unless an alternative is presented and discussed during a public board meeting.

Other Schools

Paul Hartmann surveyed Big 9 schools about their quarantine standards. 5 schools use the 7-day standard, 1 uses the 10-day standard, and 6 uses the 14-day standard.

Consideration of Change in Quarantine Standard

Changes in circumstances since January may warrant a different quarantine standard. Student and staff safety, of course, must remain our top priority, but we must also address the needs of students who desire to return to school and participate in activities. Shanda Jorgenson will present information about the three quarantine options.

Recommendation

Options

1. I move to continue to use the 14-day quarantine standard for students until April 5th (or April 19th) when the full board will revisit the standard.

Note: This is the recommendation of the COVID Response Team

2. I move to allow the 10-day quarantine standard for students if they produce a negative PCR test result taken in days 5-10 and follow other MDH restrictions. I also move that Superintendent be allowed to adjust quarantine standards for students as long as the quarantine standard meets MDH restrictions.

Note: This is the recommendation of the Superintendent.

3. I move to refer decisions about the quarantine standards to the Superintendent who will consult with the COVID Response Team and others.