



SCHOOL BOARD COMMUNICATION FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

MARCH 11, 2019

AIM 1: COLLEGE AND CAREER READY

Cradle to Career (C2C) Meeting ~ March 6 ~ Nick Truxal and I met with Julie Brock, Executive Director of this new non-profit organization in Rochester. C2C can help facilitate partnerships between schools and community businesses and organizations to help young people be successful as defined by several outcomes and indicators. C2C is just getting started, so we will watch with interest to see what concrete examples emerge and consider ways Dover-Eyota might work with C2C for the benefit of our students.

AIM 2: SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS

Trauma Responsive Schools Foundational Training ~ March 1 ~ For the first half of the day, all teachers attended this training by Danielle Theis. Her presentation was both engaging and useful in our daily efforts with some of our most challenged and challenging students. Feedback from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive. Danielle also does a more in depth training on this topic that we will consider scheduling for a teacher in-service day next year.

School-Based Mental Health Therapist Meeting ~ March 5 ~ Since we are past halfway through the school year, Mr. Carolan and I met with Heather Mathison, the school-based mental health therapist to check in and hear her perspective on how things are going. Her caseload is where her agency wanted it to be at this point in the first year and growing. We feel the program is working well, benefitting students and families, and helping students be more successful in school. The response of students and parents is very favorable. We asked Heather to give a brief update to teachers in the near future, most likely at our March faculty meeting.

AIM 3: STUDENT, STAFF AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Prom Meeting ~ February 28 ~ The two staff member advisors for Prom, a representative from the Post Prom parent committee, and I met after school to discuss several items related to Grand March, Prom, and Post Prom.

District Leadership Team ~ March 4 ~ The main topic of information and discussion was the state's e-Learning option and the possibility of implementing a version of this in Dover-Eyota. Major challenges include creating actual valuable learning experiences versus just a way to "count" snow days as school days and how to provide something to all students of all ages.

Senior Class Meeting ~ March 5 ~ The senior class officers gave their classmates more details about the two options for Senior Night Out (La Crosse Queen boat cruise or Whitewater State Park overnight) and asked them to vote for one using a Google Form survey we sent to the class. At the time of this writing, about 60% of the class had voted and the vote was heavily in favor of the boat cruise (75%) over Whitewater (25%). I also went over the parameters for Senior Open Campus and sent students the letter outlining expectations and the parent permission form after the meeting. Open Campus for eligible seniors will begin on Monday, March 11.

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences ~ March 5 ~ Both the conferences and the Post Prom parent committee's pizza meal fundraiser were rescheduled from February 25 due to weather. Attendance at both events seemed to be good. Thank you to the parents for providing pizza, beverages and treats to the teachers for their supper break!

Youth Vaping: What Adults Need to Know ~ March 5 ~ Two Community Health Specialists from Olmsted County Public Health gave a presentation for parents. These were the same presenters and presentation that the HS/MS staff heard in early December. It was highly informative and parents asked several good questions. During the question answer, Community Deputy Todd Peterson and I also provided some information and answered some questions from the law enforcement and school perspectives. Unfortunately, although we advertised this session in the Eagle, on Twitter, on the website, and through multiple emails, only 19 adults came. This session was also rescheduled from February 25 due to weather.

School Photo Meeting ~ March 6 ~ The principals and superintendent met with Peter, the owner of PocketWatch Photo, to review how things went in the first year we used him for school photos. He came with a list of issues and things he learned, as did we, and we discussed how improvements could be made based on what we all learned in the first year. We will work with PocketWatch again next school year, and Peter will implement the improvements we discussed.

AIM 4: HIGH ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

JMC Formative Assessment Workshop ~ February 21 ~ I went to Preston to learn about tools that exist or are soon to be available in JMC that teachers can use to track formative assessment and implement standards based grading. I believe these tools fit very well with the efforts we have been making over the past few years to use assessment and feedback practices that better promote student learning. I am excited to show these options to some of our teachers who have been looking for better ways to document and report grades according to principles of "grading for learning".

DAPE Planning Meeting ~ March 6 ~ I joined Jeanne and our DAPE teachers for a meeting at the elementary to look at caseloads, schedules, and service delivery models for providing adaptive physical education services to qualified students next year.