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To: Benjamin 25 Board of Education
Dr. Patrick McGill, Superintendent
From: Dr. Fitzgerald
Date: October 20, 2025
Topic: Learning and Teaching Report

BACKGROUND

I provide the Board of Education, Superintendent, and the community with a report at each regular Board of Education meeting, highlighting District Learning and Teaching activities and information.

SUMMARY

Professional Development

On Wednesday, October 8th I was able to secure training for all K-4th grade teachers for the new TCI Social Studies program we are piloting. I was also able to extend the length of the pilot until the end of February to ensure ample time to explore the program since K-4th grade teachers alternate teaching science and social studies curriculum.

Dr. McGill, Mrs. Smith and I began our Learning Walks for the year. We were able to see 7th grade, 4th grade, 8th grade and 3rd grade teachers so far. I set up a schedule that should allow us to get in every classroom twice throughout the year. We have been able to see some great teaching so far.

Mentoring

I will be meeting with the new teachers on October 29th. Our objectives for the meeting will be school safety and parent teacher conferences. We will also review the chapter on Mindfulness from the book *Onward* by Elena Aguilar.

Emergency Days/E-Learning

The Emergency Day Committee, composed of parents, teachers, and administrators recently conducted meetings to review our approach to learning when school is canceled due to weather or other emergency situations. After thorough discussions, the committee evaluated all options while keeping **what is best for student learning** at the forefront of its recommendation.

The Emergency Day Committee is recommending that Benjamin SD25 use "Emergency Days" for emergency school closures, and to not implement any version of an e-learning plan.

The committee considered a wide range of models, including 100% synchronous learning as well as various hybrid models with partial synchronous instruction. Ultimately, several factors led us to the conclusion that using Emergency Days only is in the best interest of our students, families and staff.

The committee also recommended adding a “Flex” day to the 2026-2027 calendar. This would enable the district to plan a scheduled day off in the spring that can be a day of attendance if we have to cancel a day of school earlier in the year.

School Year 2025-26: 5 Emergency Days at the end of the year can be used

School Year 2026-27: Pilot 1 Flex Day, and 4 Emergency Days at the end of the year

Letter to the district families attached:

[Emergency Day Committee Recommendation](#)

RECOMMENDATION(S)

None at this time.