

**NORTH BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 138
NORTH BRANCH AREA HIGH SCHOOL, GLASS CLASSROOM
38175 GRAND AVE
NORTH BRANCH, MN 55056
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
AUGUST 26, 2021
5:30 PM**

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
School Board Member Heather Osagiede will be attending the meeting remotely
at the following location: 9876 State Highway 176, Walnut Shade, MO 65771
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Superintendent Update
- V. Adjournment

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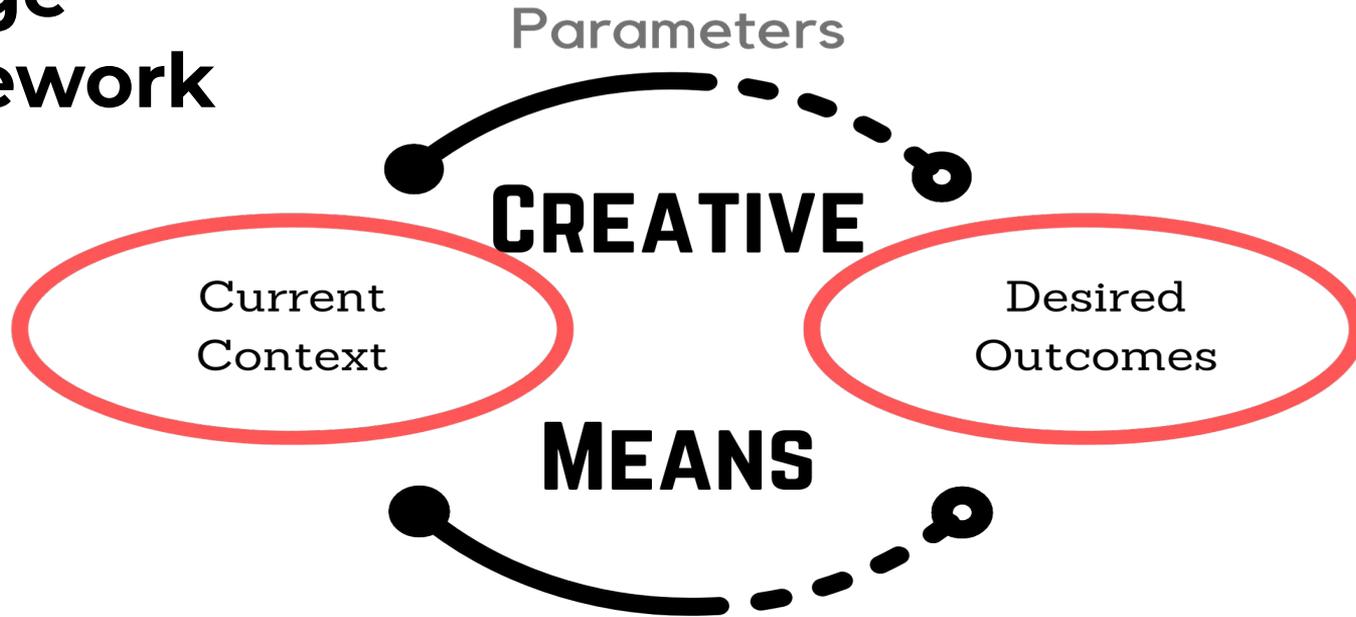
Superintendent Update

Forward Together
August 26, 2021

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Guiding Change Framework





Vision-What we intend to create

Inspire dreams, build integrity and instill hope in our students, our staff, our families and our communities.



2020-21 Safe Learning Plan Reflection

Implementation of the NBAPS 2020-21 Safe Learning Plan:

- Guided by a value for flexibility and choice for families to decide what is best for each child: distance learning or 5-day, in-school option
- Valued safety and placed a priority on the health and wellness of students and staff
- Established mutual commitments for procedures/protocols to mitigate risk
- Provided predictability of daily schedule, instructional model and learning environments⁵
- Increased community engagement to gain perspectives from students, families, and staff members in a responsive, adaptable, and ongoing planning process
- Established collaboration that shared the responsibility to maximize resources



2020-21 Safe Learning Plan Reflection

Evidence of district responsiveness and adjustments includes:

- Providing timely and ongoing communication regarding COVID-19
- Following Minnesota Department of Health guidelines as local data was collected
- Requiring face coverings per the Governor's Executive Order
- Communicating the safety benefits of the high quality air ventilation in our buildings
- Making available a dashboard of confirmed cases throughout the District
- Sending notifications to individuals impacted by COVID-19
- Working with the District's Regional Support Team and getting approval for the District's Plan prior to implementation
- Weekly meetings with Chisago County Public Health Officials
- Including a Chisago County public health official on our COVID Response Team
- Providing flexibility and choice for families to choose between two quality learning options: Distance Learning Academy, or in-person learning.
- Granting staff accommodations in accordance with state and federal requirements

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Evidence of Using District Data to Drive Decisions

- Staff surveys used to strengthen safety protocols
- Bus quarantine data provided to MDE and led to change of MDE guidance.
- Close contact data used to adjust mandatory quarantine protocols for in-school close contacts

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Better Together- Our Community Assets



NBAPS coordinated numerous meetings throughout the 2020-21 school year between school district and COVID Advisory members, included representatives from:

- Chisago County
- City of North Branch
- North Branch Chamber of Commerce
- Mental health providers
- Religious representatives
- Vikings Vittles food shelf
- St. Croix River Education District
- Other



Negative Impacts that must be addressed

Guidance from MDE- Consider student achievement data from last year an outlier

Empathy

- Distance Learning
 - Some families choose this learning model
 - Many families are returning back to in-person learning because it did not work for them
- State Quarantine Guidance- Number of missed days of schools was staggering

2021-22 “Return to In-Person Learning”

Level 1 on our Safe Learning Continuum

Federal funding (ESSER III) will be used for the following priorities:

Student Learning

- Monitoring class sizes and adjust to target ranges
- Staff training for Professional Learning Communities and Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) academic, behavioral, social emotional.
- Maintain online learning opportunities (K-12) via Distance Learning Academy
 - Devices, access, curriculum, staff

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Operational

- Improvements to Ventilation System
- Additional Cleaning Equipment and Supplies
- Safe Transportation





Face Coverings

- All employees, students and visitors have the option to wear face coverings.
 - Masks will be readily available to all visitors, staff, and students.
 - Correct wearing of masks will be communicated and promoted.
 - In the process of seeking clarification of mask mandate on buses



COVID Information and Reporting

- COVID Dashboard updated weekly
- The COVID Response Team will continue to coordinate the notification of the appropriate agencies of positive cases



Self Assessment Expectations

Students and Parents

- A **self-assessment** is expected to be used for each student before entering school grounds or school transportation by the student, parent or caregiver.
- Students exhibiting COVID symptoms outlined in the decision tree must be absent from school until symptoms meet the return to school standards of the decision tree.
- Parents of students who test positive for COVID-19 must contact the school Health Services office immediately upon learning of the test results.
- Parents must contact their school attendance line immediately to report absences for students who are experiencing symptoms as described in the self-assessment.
- Students and families will continue to be notified of confirmed COVID-19 case exposure.



Self Assessment Expectations

Visitors

- A **self-assessment** is expected of each visitor entering school grounds.
- Visitors who are experiencing symptoms as described in the self-assessment are not to enter a NBAPS building and should contact their medical professional for further direction.



Screening Options Under Consideration

Information from MDE and MDH has recently been distributed to school districts. The COVID Response Team is in the process of reviewing options for screening that will be made available to schools. The COVID Response team is considering the following options:

Students

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[BinaxNOW OTC At-Home Testing Information \(PDF\)](#)

- Individual rapid antigen test that will be available to be sent home with students.
- The state intends to provide enough tests for every student though supply volume from the test vendor will determine how many tests the state can distribute to schools.
- *This test is for students only.*



Screening Options Under Consideration

Staff

We are focusing on a solution provides responsiveness to staff. Rapid tests available for staff available through school nurses.

[Cue Testing Information \(PDF\)](#)

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- Individual rapid molecular (non-invasive) nasal swab test that schools can use onsite for staff that present symptoms and can also be used for asymptomatic screening.
- This test is currently funded by HHS through October 31, 2021.
- Availability depends on federal supply and local demand. Beginning of 2021-22 school year (Sept. 3) continuing throughout the early fall.



Ventilation

Operation of the building in which employees and students are located, includes necessary sanitation, assessment and maintenance of building systems, including water, plumbing, electrical, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

Thanks to taxpayer support of a bond referendum, NBAPS has some of the best ventilation systems in the state.

- Outside recess is encouraged for elementary students
- Outside gym time is encouraged for elementary and secondary students



Physical Distancing

“Arms Length Away” from others



Health Status and Health Information

NBAPS adheres to all federal and state regulations and laws to protect the privacy of employee and student health status and health information.



Proposed Resolution- Section 1

The Superintendent is hereby directed to implement the following health and safety measures to open the 2021-2022 school year: Return to School at a Level 1 on the School District Safe Learning Continuum. Staff, students, and visitors who are present in School District buildings are encouraged to follow the strategies of physical distancing, handwashing, respiratory etiquette, cleaning and disinfection, and staying home when sick. Individuals may voluntarily wear a mask if they so choose. The decision to get vaccinated is a personal health decision, and is not required by the School District. Decisions to move to increasing levels on the Safe Learning Continuum will be guided by the level of COVID-19 spread within the School District as well as other relevant factors.



Proposed Resolution- Section 2

The Superintendent is hereby authorized, after consultation with the School Board Chair and notification to the School Board, to select and implement different health and safety measures as reflected on the Safe Learning Continuum for the School District or any specific school buildings without School Board action if the Superintendent reasonably believes that prompt implementation of different health and safety measures is necessary, and that constraints of time and public health considerations render it impractical to hold a School Board meeting to approve the implementation of different health and safety measures.



Proposed Resolution- Section 3

The Superintendent will provide regular updates to the School Board regarding the School District's mitigation efforts and School District's COVID-19 data and other matters deemed relevant by the Superintendent or School Board.

