Schuyler Community Schools
ALL STAFF Meeting: March 23rd Update
Monday, March 23, 2020 10:00 AM
Admin Building
120 W. 20th St.
Schuyler, NE 68661-2400

I. Discussion Items

Communication

Effort Respect Responsibility Belief

One Good Thing! Share with your colleagues one "good thing" or something you are thankful for.

MEETING AGENDA AND DISCUSSION TOPICS: This meeting included all District Administrators and Tech. Director.

1. **"Continuity of Learning Packets":** Focus this week is to have 2-week student packets put together to go out to all students. Parents will be able to pick up these packets at their child's school on Monday or Tuesday, March 30-31. Any remaining packets will be mailed out on Wednesday, April 1st. We could possibly get more direction on the Continuity of Learning packets at our state-wide zoom meeting today at 1:00.

2. **Letter to Parents:** Following our meetings this morning, I plan to mail out a one page letter to all parents in the district. Included below is a draft of this letter, depending on any changing information that may come at our 11:00 and 1:00 meetings today.

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians, and Community Patrons,
Thank you for understanding our need to close schools in our community and across the state of Nebraska. Like other schools across the country, we have you and your child's health and education as our highest priority. I realize you would like more information and would like it more often.

In consultation with our board president and administrators we are very aware of the limited access some of our homes have to electronic communication. Therefore, we will mail out information every two weeks. For those who have access to electronic media, we will post minutes of all district level meetings on the school website, under "board of education". This site will host minutes as well as recorded meetings conducted between the two-week mailed information.

On Sunday afternoon, we received advisement from East Central Health to extend school closures through April 30th. We will revisit this date on April 16th to determine if we need to extend this closure through the end of the school year on May 20th.

Schuyler Community Schools has been approved to provide breakfast and lunch to **all** children ages 1-18 during the school closure. Meals can be picked up from **11:00 to 12:30 Monday through Friday at the Middle School.**

In the meantime, all teachers and staff are working to disinfect our buildings and identify essential learning so that upon our return, your children will not have gaps in their education program. Preschool - 8th grade teachers are developing activities students and their parents can do at home. Please read to and with your children and keep them writing (letters to family, friends, teachers, etc...). These are the two most important skills you can practice at home.

9-11 grade classes will continue with a limited focus on the most important concepts. Students who complete the assigned work, will be given credit toward a full year course completion. If this work is not completed, students' grade point average will not be affected. They will receive credit for 3 quarters of the class. Upon their return, we will work with students not able to complete the assigned homework. Homework will be mailed out every two weeks with a self-addressed return envelope (April 1st, April 14th, May 1st) or until we are allowed to return. If you are unable to complete the homework, we will work with you upon your return to give you every opportunity to complete this work.

Seniors, we realize you are at a real loss with this mandatory closure. You are and will remain our highest priority as we move forward. We are currently reviewing your graduation status and will work with each of you to complete the necessary credits to meet graduation requirements. For those seniors taking college credit courses, we will be working with your colleges to enable you to complete these college classes. Please don't hesitate to call or email the high school office, administrators, and guidance counselors with any questions or concerns.

Packets will be ready to be picked up at your child's school on March 30-31 and on April 13-14. Any packets not picked up will be mailed to your home on April 1st and 15th.

In closing, please take care of yourself and your family. It is situations like this, where the community of Schuyler has risen above the challenge and it is now that Schuyler Community Schools, administrators, teachers and support staff will lead our education community through this closure. Thank you in advance for understanding and the effort you make to support each other in these uncertain times.

Sincerely,
Daniel J Hoesing, Superintendent

3. **Regular Work Hours:** We have no new guidance with respect to an increased risk for school staff while working in their classrooms. If this changes in the future, we will make changes as recommended. Remember to respect the need to keep groups under 10, social distance of 6', and keep your areas where you are working disinfected.

4. **Staff Leave:** At this time, staff leave remains as discussed last week. If you have personal needs of any kind, you may exercise any remaining leave you may have accumulated. If you are ordered to stay home due to a COVID-19 restriction, or if you are out of leave, you may visit with me if you have a special circumstance that allows me to grant additional administrative leave on a case by case basis.

5. **Support Staff Availability:** If there are any support staff members available, we have several jobs that need to be done at the district office. Carol Reha contacted me asking for us to search through the nursing home medical supplies to see if we have anything the hospital may need. We will work with our medical providers to support any other community health needs that may arise over the next few months. Please visit with your principal if you are willing and have the time to assist with this request.

EAST-CENTRAL DISTRICT Health Department

Four Corners Health Department

Central District Health Department
HALL • HAMILTON • MERRICK

March 22, 2020

Recommendations for Continued School Closure Due to COVID-19

Based on the current epidemiological risk factors, and projections by state, federal and national health officials, East Central District Health Department (ECDHD), Four Corners Health Department (FCHD), and Central District Health Department (CDHD), strongly recommend that all schools served by ESU 7 close until April 30th. This recommendation will be reviewed on April 16th. While everyone is anxious to get back to "life as usual," there is a possibility that schools will remain closed for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year.

This recommendation to close schools is not undertaken lightly. It was made after hours of consultation with education officials at the state and local level, as well as ongoing monitoring of the increase in COVID-19 cases in, and in close proximity to, the counties served by ESU 7.

ECDHD, FCHD, and CDHD realize that our recommendations carry economic and personal costs for thousands of persons in your school districts. However, COVID-19 is easily spread from person-to-person, and it is not safe for large groups of people to gather. The latest epidemiological evidence has shown that persons, including children, can spread the COVID-19 virus before symptoms develop. This recommendation is meant to help our communities "flatten the curve," and prevent community spread in the ESU 7 service area. The only way to slow the spread of disease, increasing the medical community's ability to treat those infected, is to practice social distancing, including keeping 6 ft. between persons and limiting their contact with other persons, in large or small groups. While children are out of school, locations such as shopping malls, movie theaters, bowling alleys, laser tag or other arcades, and community centers should be avoided.

We encourage those who need general information about COVID-19 to call 2-1-1 or the NE Department of Health and Human Services COVID-19 Information Line at (402) 552-6645.

While there is currently no vaccine or other medical treatment for COVID-19, there are a few things anyone can do to protect themselves from COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, and we encourage you to continue this information with your school populations:

- Practice social distancing. Stay 6 feet away from the person or persons next to you.
- Avoid close contact with sick people and stay home if you are sick.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water aren't available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough with your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Chuck Sepers
Chief Public Health Officer
East Central District Health Department
Boone, Colfax, Nance, & Platte Counties

Teresa Anderson
Health Director
Central District Health Department
Hall, Hamilton, & Merrick Counties

Laura McDougall
Executive Director
Four Corners Health Department
Butler, Polk, Seward, & York Counties