

Milford Central School

Mark Place, Superintendent

PO Box 237 • West Main Street

Milford, NY 13807-0237

Telephone (607) 286-3341 or 3349 | FAX (607) 286-7879



TO: Board of Education
FROM: Mark Place, Superintendent
DATE: February 10, 2021
RE: Board Questions in Advance of Meeting

UPDATE ON STATUS OF IN-PERSON LEARNING

The changes that were made two weeks ago to in-person learning schedules (PK-5 attending daily, 6-8 attending on Monday/Tuesday, and 9-12 attending on Thursday/Friday) have taken the pressure off the daily need to find substitutes and has provided us some much needed flexibility. This is especially true at the secondary level where we have been able to have staff cover classes when we run short of substitutes.

Quarantines continue to prove to be a significant challenge. This was true for the 2nd grade quarantine which resulted in nine (9) staff members needing to remain at home. Some staff were able to work from home with no impact on other classes; however, our special area teachers cover multiple grade levels, and we have had to be creative in finding ways to cover their classes.

An additional challenge that has arisen in the past two weeks is staff needing time to get vaccinations. Because the county has very limited doses, the options for staff to select appointments outside the workday are extremely limited. Staff are doing their best to let us know well in advance so that we can try and find coverage.

UPDATE ON SPORTS

The Tri-Valley superintendents and athletic directors have been working collaboratively on the Fall 2 and Spring sports seasons. Fall 2 sports which includes soccer will commence on 3/1 and continue through 4/24. Spring sports which includes track, baseball, and softball will commence on 4/19 and continue through 6/12.

The current focus of the league is creating a schedule, establishing a unified approach to COVID19 protocols (masks, sanitizing equipment, contact tracing, etc), and establishing rules regarding spectators. We also have to attend to finer details including how many athletes can be on a bus at one time, are there turf fields available for rent, will there be enough referees, and do we need to consider playing on Sundays. The first games will be scheduled for late-March, so we are using our time now to work on a comprehensive plan.

CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS

With the Governor's office stating that all State aid monies due to school districts this school year (2020-2021) will be paid in full including grants, the concerns that we had early in the school year with regard to the 20% cut have been diminished. This is fantastic news, and within the next several weeks we will be coming to the Board to make recommendations to rescind parts of our proposed cuts that were approved in September.

The cost saving measures that we put in place in the summer along with remaining on remote learning for longer periods of time have resulted in significant savings in several budget lines. For example, in the Appropriation Status Report, you will find that line A2110.140 – Substitute teachers had \$65,000 budgeted for this year, and currently only \$5811.25 has been expensed. Additionally, costs for conferences and field trips have been well below original budget projections.

Based on current trends and barring any unexpected large expenditures, we anticipate that we will add to the fund balance again this year. This is good news, and it will allow us to make one-time expenditures to put in place programs and supports to bridge any learning gaps created by the pandemic.

A plan to address learning gaps created by the pandemic will be forthcoming by the March 11th Board meeting.