

Milford Central School

Mark Place, Superintendent

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TO: Board of Education
FROM: Mark Place, Superintendent
RE: Items Prior to Board Meeting
DATE: March 10, 2021

PANDEMIC LEARNING GAPS

As part of the 2021-2022 budget development, we have included within the budget the following one-time expenditures to address learning gaps brought on by the pandemic as well as new curriculum supports:

- Summer Curriculum Development & Student Support Preparation: \$15,000
- Summer ELA and Math Support in Collaboration with CROP: \$7,500
- Tutoring and Support for Students in Grades 6-12: \$24,000
- K-5 Writing Curriculum with PD: \$20,000
- Elementary Science Kits: \$7,500

The cost for these additional supports and curriculum enhancements will be paid through both the general fund as well as through federal grants. We are also exploring a number of scheduling ideas that staff presented as options to provide support to students during the instructional day without any additional costs to the District.

The details of both the additional one-time expenditures and the scheduling changes will be forthcoming over the next several months as we work on the details.

UPDATE ON IN-PERSON LEARNING

On Monday, March 8, 2021 we welcomed back students in Grades 6-12 for four days of in-person learning per week. We have left Wednesdays as a remote learning day for this group of students as a precaution in the event that we have any outbreaks of COVID19.

We currently have the entire third grade on remote learning due to four confirmed positive cases and two presumed positive cases in the class. There are others who are also now symptomatic.

UPDATE ON CAPITAL PROJECT

We are continuing to work on the final stage of the project – closeout. We will be meeting with our financial advisors, architects, and construction management team on Friday, March 12, 2021 to go over the final paperwork and items that need to be completed before final payments are made. We will also discuss with our financial advisor our plans for going out for financing.

Previously we had proposed using the savings we saw from being under budget as a way to pay for part of our debt service. After reviewing our projected fund balance for the end of this year, our recommendation is now to only borrow the actual amount we spent. This will save the district the cost of borrowing the funds, and we believe that our fund balance is more than sufficient to offset any costs.

SPRING SPORTS UPDATE

The varsity practices for soccer are up and running for both boys and girls teams. Our numbers of players however continue on a downward trend as we have seen over the past 3-5 years. Since arriving at MCS in 2016, the number of students in grades 9-12 has dropped from 130 down to 89. These types of declines are being seen in our neighboring districts as well. In order to be able to field teams for spring sports, we are recommending the following mergers:

VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

Currently only 13 students signed up (11 needed to play). Laurens has only 6-7 students. With several of our students graduating in June, the recommendation is that we merge with Laurens for both the Spring 2021 and the Fall 2021 seasons.

MODIFIED SOCCER

Currently there are 7 boys and 8 girls signed up. Neither has enough to field a team. Recommendation is to merge with the Laurens Modified Boys for a mixed team for the Spring 2021 season only.

VARSITY BASEBALL, MODIFIED BASEBALL, AND MODIFIED SOFTBALL

Numbers are not yet confirmed; however, it is highly likely that we will need to merge with Laurens to be able to field any of these teams. We will know closer to the end of the month.

TRACK & FIELD

We anticipate that we will need to merge with Laurens once again for track & field for the Spring 2021 season.

FORTHCOMING DISCUSSION

Later this spring we will need to discuss the merger of all boys sports for the 2021-2022 school year. Both Milford and Laurens anticipate declining enrollments which will make fielding teams incredibly difficult if not impossible.