

Milford Central School

Mark Place, Superintendent

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TO: Board of Education
FROM: Mark Place, Superintendent
RE: Items Prior to 03/25/2021 Board Meeting
DATE: March 22, 2021

IN-PERSON LEARNING – NEW CDC GUIDANCE

On Friday, March 19, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control issued new guidance for school districts regarding social distancing guidelines. For schools in low-transmission areas, the guidance will allow social distancing in classroom settings to be 3 feet. This change only applies if face coverings are worn at all times. Areas where meals are consumed or snacks are eaten, the 6 feet requirement is maintained. Please note that:

- Otsego County is not considered to be a low-transmission area. The county currently has one of the highest rates per 100,000 residents in the United States.
- As a NY State school district, we must await official guidance from the NY State Department of Health before we are able to make any changes. It has typically been 2-3 weeks after the CDC has made changes before we see official guidance from the State.
- There are testing recommendations attached to the new guidance. We do not know if this will be part of the NY State DOH guidance, and if it is, our area has seen little assistance in getting testing materials made available to schools.

STATE EXAMINATIONS UPDATE

The NY State Education Department, along with others across the country, have requested that the federal Department of Education waive the requirement for 3-8 examinations as well as Regents exams. As of today, the waiver request has been denied. Therefore, the State is taking the following actions:

- Grades 3-8 Testing will occur, but the scope of the assessments will be significantly decreased with only one day of testing for ELA and one for math. Science examinations will have no hands-on components. Results will not count against either students or teachers.
- Only four Regents exams will be given (English, Algebra 1, Earth Science, and Biology). The hands-on parts of the science exams will be removed. Results of the test will not count against students, and those not taking the exam will have the exam exempted.
- In no case will the results of the Regents exams impact a student's ability to graduate.

ROUTINE CONSENT --- AMEND 09/17/2020 ACTION ON BUDGET CUTS

At the September 17, 2020 Board Meeting, I presented a recommendation to cut \$778,500 from the current budget in anticipation of a 20% cut in State Aid. The Board approved the motion to freeze these funds. The State Aid cut did not materialize, and we are now seeking to amend the motion from that meeting to allow for our Business Office to conduct its normal spring purchases. This will include paying the Medicare Reimbursements that we had proposed to delay until the next budget year.

CATEGORY	NOTES	TOTAL ESTIMATED SAVINGS
SALARIES	ATTRITION SINCE JULY 1, 2020 - RETIREMENTS, RESIGNATIONS, OFFSETS	\$ 219,000.00
CAPITAL	DELAY OF CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT	\$ 100,000.00
EQUIPMENT	ZERO OUT ALL EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	\$ 24,000.00
PROGRAM	REDUCE FIELD TRIPS BY \$12,500 - \$5,000 REMAINING (OUT OF \$30,000)	\$ 12,500.00
PROGRAM	REDUCE CONFERENCES BY FURTHER \$2,500 - \$5,000 REMAINING (NEED FOR TRAININGS)	\$ 2,500.00
SUPPLIES	REDUCE SUPPLY CODES FOR CLASSROOMS BY \$28,000	\$ 28,000.00
SUPPLIES	REDUCE SPORTS SUPPLY PURCHASES BY \$4500 (50%)	\$ 4,500.00
BENEFITS	DELAY PAYMENT OF MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT UNTIL 7/15/2021	\$ 125,000.00
EXCESS FUND BALANCE	REDUCE EXCESS FUND BALANCE BY \$200,000	\$ 200,000.00
DEBT SERVICE	USE OF CAPITAL PROJECT REMAINING FUNDS	\$ 50,000.00
CROP	REDUCE TRANSPORTATION COSTS BY 50% DUE TO PROGRAM NOT STARTING UNTIL 1/1/21	\$ 3,000.00
OVERTIME	ONLY ALLOWED FOR BUILDING CHECKS - REDUCTION OF \$10,000	\$ 10,000.00
		\$ 778,500.00

APRIL BREAK

As noted in the 3/19/2021 MCS Weekly Update, the Governor has removed the requirement for New Yorkers to quarantine after traveling within the US. This is effective April 1, 2021. Therefore, MCS will return to in-person learning as regularly planned on Monday, April 12, 2021.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AUDIT

The State Education Department will be conducting a review of our district's IEPs for compliance with transition planning for students. Transition planning is a part of the IEP process for secondary students as they prepare to graduate and options they have once they leave MCS. The audit will occur prior to the end of the current academic year.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

We met with our architects, construction management team, and financial advisors on Friday, March 12, 2021. At that meeting we discussed the final closeout of each of the prime contracts. At the time of the meeting, the project is anticipated to come in at approximately \$160,000 under budget for the construction portion of the project. Final numbers will be provided once final bills are paid.

We then met later that afternoon with our fiscal advisors to discuss the financing side of the project. They are preparing the paperwork to apply for permanent financing on our behalf through the Dormitory Authority of the State of NY (DASNY). After reviewing all of the estimated expenditures associated with legal fees, financing costs, and current interest rates, the district may see an additional savings of more than \$90,000 on the financial side of the project.

If all the final numbers come in as we anticipate, we are looking at the entirety of the project being approximately 6% under budget.

ATHLETIC COMPETITIONS - SPECTATORS

Athletic competitions will resume within the next week. Per NY State Public High School Athletic Association rules, each athlete will be able to have a maximum of two (2) spectators for each competition. Each athlete will be given two passes. All spectators will be required to attest to the COVID19 questions upon entry and to provide contact tracing information. Face coverings will be required at all times.

FOLLOW UP FROM THE 03/15/2021 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

At the prior meeting during the AIS vs RtI discussion, Board Member Singh asked if the number of current AIS students could be provided.

ELEMENTARY

Elementary support includes pull-out sessions (regular & special education) and in-class support by teachers. The numbers below represent individual students.

GRADE LEVEL SPAN	TOTAL RECEIVING SUPPORT	TOTAL PULLED OUT
K-2	32	17
3-5	32	7

In grades K-5, 64 students out of 155 students (41%) are receiving some level of support.

SECONDARY

Secondary support includes separate foundational classes, AIS support classes, and resource rooms. Because students can have multiple supports, the data below represents the number of periods per day by grade level.

GRADE LEVEL SPAN	CONTACT PERIODS	DETAILS
6-8	42	Reading for all 6 th Grade, Resource Room, Structured Study Hall
9-12	55	Algebra, Math AIS, Geometry AIS, Earth Science, Biology, Structured Study Halls, Resource Rooms

In grades 6-12, 62 students out of 188 (33%) are receiving some level of support.