

Vaccinations

Vaccinations have been continuing this week. Many have notified me that have been contacted and have set up appointments for being vaccinated. Please be aware that vaccinations are coming through the county and through the district, so your email may look different from your colleagues. Many people have asked if we could have a list of teachers that are vaccinated or if we can get that by building, the simple answer is no. Vaccination invitations are sent out, but that doesn't mean it is all certified staff and the district won't inquire to see if you agreed to be vaccinated or not. Yes, I am sure that someone, somewhere has all of that information – but I am not that person. Please be patient as you wait for your email and know that all of our staff that want to be vaccinated will be vaccinated.

Re Opening Plans for Secondary

The secondary will be on a traditional 8 period day for the last quarter when they finally go in person. Time to dispel a rumor! It has been stated that “REA stopped the block from happening” that is untrue and will not let our association take the blame! Secondary staff was surveyed and that was discussed at the board because of the split vote. Our board members had several questions as to how both models would work for middle school and high school. On Monday, February 22, Mr. Munoz, Karl Bakken, Jacque Peterson and Karl Bolleson met with the senior FR in the secondary. It was a fact finding question and answer session regarding the pros/cons of both models. Once they were done with that meeting, they took that information back to the cabinet and decided on the 8 period day. There were several issues brought up like exceeding supervision minutes, traveling teacher schedules, cleaning, exceeding instructional time etc. With that being said, the district decided not to bring forward an MOU regarding the block. Your colleagues represented the staff very well and had no problems letting the district team know what would work well and what would not. I appreciate their time and professional response to the district reaching out for information. So, if you hear that REA blocked this.....please stop the rumor!

Re Opening Plans for Elementary

I had people email over the week end regarding the last minute change in your schedule. I will take the blame for that issue. 2 weeks ago, Angel and I brought forward the issue that elementary staff that have to teach in 2 models (in person and DL) needed the prep that the governor stated in EO 20-94. The reason it came up is because I had members that contacted me about being in 2 models and how was that going to continue to work. When I was out of the office, last Thursday, apparently they decided we were correct in our interpretation and had to make a change to the schedule. So in order to accommodate the EO, they decided to take 30 minutes off the end of the day, so that teachers can have a 30-minute prep. Unfortunately, in order to give a 30-minute prep, specials were cut back to the current schedule. I would have liked to given a heads up, but I didn't know this was going to happen. It was frustrating to several staff members, plus myself. Long story short, you have been notified that you now have 2 preps in a day averaging about 50 minutes. It isn't perfect, but the governors EO was important and it needed to be followed.

Finally, timelines have been given to me for displacements. People will get a formal letter of displacement prior to spring break. Longfellow, because of your schedule, you will be notified a week before that. I have spoken with HR and there should be a personal conversation prior to receiving that letter, but I am not betting on anything this year. I have had one circumstance already and we are nowhere near the timeline the district has developed. You will be hearing more about displacement and transfers in upcoming letters.

Thanks,

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