



Seymour Community School District
Administration/Board of Education
10 Circle Drive
Seymour, WI 54165

May 14, 2020

Dear Senator Cowless and Representative Steineke,

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do during the COVID 19. I am reaching out today to share information about how our district is working to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 for our students, staff and families during this unprecedented public health emergency and school closure.

The first area is continuity of learning for all students. We implemented our learning platform in two stages. The first stage started on March 18th and the second stage during the week of March 30th. In our first stage we contacted parents to determine what was needed for each family in order for their child to have access to an online/virtual environment in their home, we provided lessons for students based on review of prior learning and provided professional development to our staff around effective virtual learning. Moving into the second phase was not as complicated for our students in grades 6th - 12th because they were currently in a 1:1 environment. For students in grade 4K through 5th grade this was more of a challenge.

While providing the devices was the first step to providing equity for students in a virtual learning environment, it soon became clear connectivity was also an issue. Most of our district which covers 175 square miles is located in rural locations. We worked with families to help them access internet service, if it was available in their area, or provide mifi's if an internet provider was not available. While this supported most of our learners we still had a small number, 8% percent of our students who we could not solve the connectability puzzle. Therefore our staff has also provided packets of copies to families. While we have worked diligently in this area, we realize these are still equities in this current system of delivery of learning to our students.

In order to continue to improve our virtual delivery method of instruction, we provided professional learning/development opportunities for our certified staff to allow them to develop or refine their skills. We have also provided courses to our paraprofessionals during this time so when we return they will be able to apply their learning to help us close the gaps that may have developed over this closure.

Our food service workers have done an extraordinary job, providing more than 36,000 meals to-date for children, serving at six different sites come rain or shine during the school week. Four of our six sites are located in our lower poverty areas throughout our district. We have also worked with community groups to continue our cloth bag meals for weekends.

As we move forward during the next few months, we will continue to plan for the upcoming summer and next school year. I want to thank you for your leadership and dedication as part of this process of reopening schools in the upcoming months. If you have any questions that I could help you answer, please feel free to reach out anytime.

Sincerely,

Laurie Asher
Superintendent

The Seymour Community School District does not discriminate against students on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or physical, cognitive, emotional or learning disability in its education programs or activities.