



Royall School District

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Dear Senator Marklein and Representative Kurtz,

Let me start by thanking you for stepping up to serve as an elected official. Like most public service positions, such as educators, we primarily hear from people when things are not going well. I am sure with these crazy times, your email and regular mailboxes are overflowing. So, also thank you for reading the "Royall Story".

When Governor Evers first announced that schools would be closing our administrative team and teaching staff went into high gear. We obviously were hoping it was short term, but we also knew that we had to prepare for it to be long term. We immediately ordered 80 new Chromebooks and followed that up with an additional 40 for replacing ones that might break. We were prepared with regard to having a 1:1 onsite system in place 3rd – 12th, but our rationale of it being 1:1 on site was based on the lack of internet access for many of our rural and impoverished families. This had not changed, so we had to research and purchase as many hotspots as we could to accommodate students who needed them. We actually had a number of staff members who were also in need based on their home locations not having reliable internet access. As a last resort, we offered and had a number of students park in our school parking lot so they could access our internet and do school work from their automobiles.

I want to tell you how impressed I was with our staff members call to action. We had staff members working tirelessly to meet the needs of each one of our students. We had staff members offering to help other staff members quickly become "tech savvy" enough to run a google classroom and to host a zoom meeting. This continued throughout the balance of the school year. I have spoken with many of our teachers who have said that teaching online is actually much, much more time consuming than normal teaching. I have witnessed this personally, as many of our staff members are holding office hours from early in the morning until late at night.

As we worked to prepare to offer comparable academic rigor, we also put in place the process to feed ALL of the children in our community that would accept the help. We are currently feeding approximately 250 breakfast and lunches five days a week. This was no small task as we delivered most of the meal directly to their homes. Our cooks and bus drivers have stepped up with no complaint!

It comes as no surprise that our students who struggle with school daily are struggling the most with the online learning. All of our students miss the social interactions, but our impoverished students once again are missing the most. Before the CORONA epidemic hit we had decided to put more emphasis on our staff and students mental health. I am sure that this time of uncertainty will only exacerbate the issue for many.

As leaders of our great state of Wisconsin, I know you have our children and their future in your forethoughts and strive to keep vital opportunities available to them. The past few months have reiterated immensely the importance of our educational system and the absolute priority it needs to be.

Thank you again and as always if you have any questions, feel free to give me a call.

Achieving Excellence Together.... Whatever It Takes!