

James R. Sebert, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

May 13, 2020

Senator Dan Feyen  
Room 306 South  
State Capitol  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Feyen,

I trust that this letter finds you, your family and your colleagues in a safe, happy and healthy place. It has been a pleasure recently to serve with you on the Reopen Fond du Lac County Task Force via Envision Greater Fond du Lac. I wanted to take an opportunity to share some of the ways that the Fond du Lac School District has addressed the COVID-19 pandemic and school closure.

We began in early March talking about possibilities for meal service and online learning for what we thought might be a couple of weeks at most. We worked together as administrators, teachers, media specialists, technology services staff, and instructional and technology coaches to plan which culminated in a truly amazing Sunday, March 15, 2020, afternoon meeting where we rallied together to put everything in place for the following weeks. I will be forever grateful for the power of that afternoon and the work that led up to it for our kids, families and community.

Since our last day of in-person school of Monday, March 16, 2020, we have continued to work together to ensure that the social, emotional and academic needs of our students are being met. First and foremost, we have needed to take care of each other and support each other to be successful. When I say that, I'm referring to our staff, our kids and our families to keep them positive and hopeful during this time of isolation. People have responded remarkably!

We have embraced virtual learning by sending home over 5,000 Chromebooks and iPads and we continue to offer Technology Support each day at our District Office during the pandemic. We have helped families who



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needed internet access by connecting them to local access opportunities and provided 125 wi-fi hotspots for those who needed that option.

To date, we have served over 50,000 meals at our seven community and school sites for all students and local children aged 18 and under. The meals contain a lunch and shelf-stable breakfast for the next day. Aramark, our food service provider, has led this charge. We have also continued our partnership with the Fondy Food Pantry on Fridays to provide bags of food for the weekend to kids and families.

Our employees all continue to serve, whether that is through deep cleaning, teaching, supporting, counseling, providing special education services, returning needed medication and the list goes on. Everyone has stepped up for kids and for our families. While we all may be tiring a bit from Zoom meetings, we stay strong as we approach the end of the school year on June 4.

Our buildings may be closed but teaching and learning as well as social connection is alive and well in the Fond du Lac School District. We will be better on the back end of this experience and I truly believe it has called upon us to think about what the future of education could and should look like. We have additional work ahead as we return student belongings, collect devices and materials, and plan our virtual graduation and summer school program. As we look forward to multiple potential schooling options in the fall, we recognize that complex problems like these have no handbook and require the power of people to solve them. We will do just that together over the coming months.

We are learning and growing everyday in the Fond du Lac School District. I appreciate our relationship and will continue to be available with any questions or comments you may have. All the best to you and your family during this uncertain time.

Sincerely,



Dr. James R. Sebert  
Superintendent of Schools



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