

May 15, 2020

Dear Senator Wanggaard:

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well during these unprecedented times. I am reaching out to thank you for your support, especially during these past few months. I know our staff, students, Board of Education and community greatly appreciate all you do to support schools in Wisconsin. I also want to share how Kenosha Unified has served our students and their families despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and request your continued support as you make difficult decisions in the days and weeks ahead.

When the initial school closure announcement came out on March 13, none of us imagined this would be the last day for face-to-face instruction and that we'd be moving to a virtual environment in a matter of weeks, yet here we are. In fact, in the course of a few short weeks, Kenosha Unified:

- Initially canceled school for three weeks impacting 20,000 students
- The Safer at Home order mandated school buildings to be closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year, and as such, KUSD developed and rolled out online learning program for grades 4K-12 by the fourth week of closure
- Developed and implemented a schedule to regularly clean 42 buildings
- Briefly reopened buildings so staff could gather learning materials needed for online learning
- Created and rolled out a community grab and go meal program, initially distributing anywhere from 16,000 to 25,000 meals weekly
- Gathered and distributed more than 6,000 Chromebooks to students in need of technology
- Explored hotspot options for students in need of internet connectivity
- Evaluated and adjusted third and fourth quarter calendars
- Evaluated and adjusted third and fourth quarter grading
- Rescheduled tentative dates for proms and graduations while also planning virtual graduations for eight high schools
- Regularly communicated all updates about the ever-changing situation with staff and families as it pertained to the Safer at Home order and all KUSD changes and/or initiatives during the closure
- Worked with numerous local, state and national organizations, such as WIAA, AP, and others, to evaluate programs and offerings and make adjustments as needed
- Developed and rolled out a plan for the pickup of 20,000 students' personal items
- Frequently adjusted plans based on updates regarding the Safer at Home orders
- Worked closely with colleagues throughout the state to maneuver the closure
- Surveyed families and staff regarding district events
- Planned and rolled out virtual summer school plans to families
- Adjusted to and implemented virtual IEPs
- Implemented virtual staff and one-on-one meetings
- Shared virtual social emotional student supports with staff and families

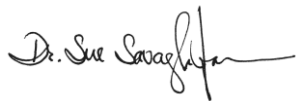
However, our work is far from done. We are now focusing on implementing virtual summer school and planning for a variety of scenarios for the summer and fall as we wait to learn what the future holds for our community, state, nation and world. We also know that with all this activity we will incur additional costs. There is potential need for additional supplies, such as PPE for staff and students, additional paper costs for learning packets, additional technology to support students and staff in virtual settings, increased cleaning needs, and much more.

As one of the largest employers in Kenosha County, we are proud to have been able to face the pandemic before us with the support of our amazing, flexible staff who stepped up to do whatever was necessary to continue providing excellent, challenging learning opportunities to our students. We are thankful to be able to continue paying staff who have worked tirelessly to adjust learning environments and keep our district operating during the closure. We are hopeful that our ability to continue employing and paying staff has helped our community as funds are reinvested into our local economy.

I believe our staff, students and community will continue working together through this pandemic to do what is needed to keep Kenosha and our state strong, but we need your continued support, especially as it relates to school funding. Rumblings of school budgets being impacted makes planning for an already unknown future that much more difficult, which is why I ask for your continued support as you are tasked with making difficult decisions ahead. Please keep our students and families at the forefront of your decision-making, and do what is best for our communities and the children of our great state. They are our future and deserve every resource we can provide.

We will get through this together!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis
Superintendent of Schools