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May 18th, 2020

Senator Robert Cowles
Room 118 South
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Representative Gary Tauchen
Room 13 West
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Cowles and Representative Tauchen,

I hope this letter finds you and your families 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 the Shawano School District is serving, and will continue to serve, 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.

The Shawano School District made the call at noon on March 13th to close for a month. At that time, none of us imagined this would be the last day for face-to-face instruction and that we'd be moving to a virtual/packet learning environment in a matter of weeks, yet, here we are. In fact, in the course of a few short weeks Shawano schools has:

- Cancelled school for three weeks impacting 2300 students and families on March 13th
- Surveyed parents on their access to broadband at home
- Leveraging the digital platform, redesigned learning for K-5 with instructional packets and 6-12 with packet backup distribution, while keeping equitable access at the center of our decisions
- Immediately began serving daily breakfasts and lunches to families at six sites throughout town, including weekends
- Developed and implemented a schedule to clean buildings
- Explored hotspot options for students in need of internet connectivity and purchased 50 hotspots for students and staff without broadband access
- Provided weekly communications on all updates about the ever-changing situation with staff and families as it pertains to the Safer-At-Home order and all district changes and/or initiatives during the closure
- Developed and rolled out a plan for the pickup of students' personal items
- Developed and adjusted graduation plans for 2020 while continuing to be flexible based on information/guidance given from state and local entities
- Frequently adjusted plans based on updates regarding the Safer-At-Home order
- Surveyed families and staff regarding summer school, and based on feedback, planned and rolled out a virtual summer school for 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

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- Worked with numerous local, state and national organizations, such as WASA, WASB, AP, CESA's and others, to evaluate programs and offerings, making adjustments as needed
- Continue to work with the local health agency to modify and adjust plans to keep the safety of students, staff and families at the forefront of everything we do
- Maintained relationships with contracted services by modifying services and extending contracts where appropriate
- Monitored and have begun preparations for a budget repair bill
- Removed all non-essential employees from the physical workplace, providing virtual opportunities for work and professional development as appropriate
- Provided appropriate measures to ensure the safety of all essential workers
- Closed district grounds, including playgrounds, for community and/or recreational use
- Began exploring partnerships for health care, mental health services and broadband services in the preparation of returning to physical schooling at some point or continuing in a virtual environment

We are now focusing on building a re-entry plan for the fall of 2020. We are using a model based on the local, state and national health organizations recommendations for reentry.

We are building four reentry models:

- 100 percent virtual
- Hybrid model, groups less than 10 people, maintaining social distancing
- Hybrid model, groups less than 50 people, maintaining social distancing
- New normal

A few of the questions we continue to ponder: availability of PPE equipment, mandatory screenings for students and staff, busing, lunches, large gatherings and additional space to isolate students that become sick at school.

On top of all the health and safety questions for our students, staff and families is the unknown of the Shawano School District budgets. This unknown makes planning for the future even more difficult, which is why I ask for your continued support as you are tasked with making difficult decisions every day. In every decision you make, I ask you to keep our students, communities and our future in the center of the room, and continue to do what is best for all.

I truly believe that we can leverage this disruption to enhance student learning. We need your continued support to accomplish that.

We will get through this together!

Respectfully,

Superintendent Randi Anderson
Shawano School District