

Larry B. Hammond, Superintendent
Board Report
March 17, 2020

The nation as well as the Commonwealth of Kentucky have revised plans based on the most current information/data available from the CDC. The increases of COVID-19 cases and the increasing panic of citizens has emptied shelves in grocery stores, closed sporting events, Disneyland/Disneyworld, closed bars and restaurants, school systems as well as many other businesses. While the state of Ohio was considering closing schools for the remainder of the year, Arkansas was planning to keep all schools open. As you know, this also mirrors considerations and actions of countries throughout the world. Individuals have been encouraged to practice social distancing which has weighed heavily on the minds of everyone. Mixed messages as well as mindsets run rampant. In addition to the physical well-being of students and staff, mental health issues are a factor and have been part of the equation as possibilities have been pondered in an effort to consider all. Both certified and classified staff in Gallatin have a significant number of older workers in the range of 60 which also played into our planning efforts.

Gallatin County School District has remained in close contact with the Three Rivers District Health Department to ensure the health and welfare of our students remained the number one factor in the decision-making process. We have also been challenged due to the proximity to Boone County Schools and their plans to implement NTI as well as telecommuting for staff.

After ongoing evaluation of the situation, students, caregivers and personnel; the decision was made to close the district until further notice. Both certified and classified staff have been directed through their supervisors of the opportunities available through the use of technology as well as the necessity of documentation in relation to payment for services rendered. NTI days for students easily justify the payment for teachers and the remaining certified staff. The issue was not so easily addressed with classified staff but considering the nature of the basis for closure a plan was developed. All classified staff have been directed to do individualized training online and provide documentation to immediate supervisors. We have a plan to feed the students in need. Food service personnel will prepare the meals and transportation will make deliveries to the homes. This service will be provided on a voluntary basis that will include certified staff in

addition to food service and transportation. We expect enough concerned folks will meet the needs and challenges of our students and families. Website updates will continue for both our services as well as the schedule. Links will be provided for CDC updates as well as Kentucky updates. Plans are in place for teachers to effectively deliver instructional services and check on the well-being of students and families. The situation remains fluid and will adjusted accordingly as the needs or variables change.

The following notice will be placed on the doors of the Central Office:

Gallatin County School District is closed until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Someone will be available for mail delivery to the Central Office. Communication will occur via phone or email. Email addresses for staff are typically firstname.lastname@gallatin.kyschools.us . Emails inquiries will get a response within 24 hours. Voice messages can be left at the Central Office number of (859) 567-1820. Updates will be made frequently on the District Website. Email addresses can be located on the District Website as well as the individual school telephone numbers.