

Larry B. Hammond, Superintendent
Board Report
January 19, 2021

Re-opening school with the hybrid model has proven to be the best choice, given the options. Many districts have continued with remote learning and likely to remain in that mode of instruction for a while. Each district has its own set of unique circumstances which must be evaluated continually in a normal year and most definitely in this unprecedented time. I will share a scenario we encountered last week that supports the hybrid choice. A student came to school with no apparent symptoms. He became ill/displayed symptoms later in the day and was taken home in the van while riding in the rear. The driver wore an N95 mask. The student was tested and the results were positive. The seating chart in the classroom and the bus revealed no additional quarantine was necessary. In the absence of the hybrid model, additional students and possibly staff would likely have been quarantined.

Please remember we have revised our transportation model to delete the taking of temperatures prior to the student entering the bus. This change was made after evaluating current guidance in relation to symptoms. In many positive COVID cases, no fever was present. In addition, we had not encountered a student with a fever entering a bus. The cold weather also prevented accurate readings with the thermometers off the bus. Student temperatures will be taken at school prior to entering the building. We have purchased equipment that will expedite the entry with presumed accurate readings of student temperatures.

The most recent stimulus funding to be distributed based on the Title I, Part A formula for Kentucky is nearly 1 billion (\$928 million). Gallatin County will receive \$1,351,382., with guidance expected within 2 weeks. Total allocations can be viewed at this link [CARES Act Allocations 011221](#). Printing presses have been extremely busy in the nation's capital! As with the previous stimulus, this news will provide the ability to address instructional issues we have discussed and continue to dominate conversations in school districts, as well as the news throughout the state and nation. Considerations on this topic can be included in the Board retreat discussion in February. District staff have been made aware of the funding which generated a positive outlook toward making a difference with kids struggling to adapt to the challenges presented by COVID since March 2019. Thoughts will be gathered from each school with district leadership guiding the discussion/planning process. Currently, we are planning for usage similar to the previous CARES funding plus the instructional needs resulting from the virus.

The administrative staff have been planning to address needs of students in danger of failing grades at the middle school. In the absence of being able to improve upon the plan, we will likely begin transporting groups of middle school students to school on Fridays that have not been completing their work. The start date for this effort will begin Friday, January 29. Adjustments will be made to the bus routes to accommodate this change.

Vaccinations will be administered to the 153 Gallatin staff that submitted their names to the health department Thursday, January 21 at the end of the school day. The health department plans on completing the process in approximately 2 hours. Dr. Heise advised of the change in schedule this morning. The middle school gym will be used for the event.

Much discussion has occurred and will continue in the administrative meeting this Friday regarding the remainder of the school year and the challenges we face. Tony, Jeremy and I look forward to sharing many of the considerations at the February 6 meeting which include possibilities for an enhanced summer school plus plans for the proposed school day length for the 2021 – 2022 school year. We are confident in your support and approval.