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September 21, 2021

Dear Stakeholders,

In an attempt to keep the community better informed about Wayne District schools, I will be writing a regular letter highlighting things that are going on in our schools and/or the district. My hope is that all stakeholders in district boundaries will find these updates informative, if not useful.

There are a couple of items I want to highlight this month. First, on September 7th, district employees were invited to participate in a full day of professional development focused on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). This training was provided by Aspen Florence, a professor at Weber State University, as well as several of our own employees including Jamie Webb, Erica Taft, Sharon Durfey, and Jessica Grundy. The Utah State Board of Education defines MTSS as “a framework for implementing systemic, evidence-based practices to maximize student achievement in academics and behavior in preparation for and leading to College and Career Readiness. The MTSS model includes Universal, Targeted, and Intensive levels of support for several identified components, such as academics, behavior, and educational equity.” This training was just an overview. WCSD employees will be participating in ongoing, job embedded professional development focused on MTSS over the next couple of years.

The other item of interest I want to highlight is our September board meeting. The board of education and members of the public that were present heard reports from Jamie Webb, Lance Peterson, Erica Taft, and Tracie Fallis about Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) supports we have in place in our district. According to a Hanover research report prepared for Utah Leading through Effective, Actionable, and Dynamic Education (ULEAD), “SEL refers to the skills and knowledge that students need to communicate effectively, interact with peers, resolve conflicts, and manage their emotional responses to stressful situations.” Our elementary, middle, and high school students have the opportunity to receive training and develop these skills on a weekly or monthly basis, depending on grade level, through the efforts of the individuals listed above.

On another note, we have consistently seen five to eight cases of COVID-19 in students throughout the school year to this point. We have never seen more than five cases in any one

school at a time. We continue to monitor the numbers daily and communicate with the local health department weekly. All but one of the cases we have seen so far have been through community or home exposure. Efforts on the part of parents, schools, and the health department to quarantine and/or isolate infected and exposed students are working to keep school exposures and spread at a minimum. In short, COVID-19 is not spreading at school. Thank you to all those who are helping and supporting us in this effort. Our number one priority is to keep students safe while keeping them in school, where we know they learn best.

Sincerely,

Randy Shelley
Superintendent
Wayne County School District