

January 21, 2019 Board Updates



(Update on our district's responsive actions to Jayme Closs' return)

Academics and Curriculum

There is a strong body of knowledge that states symptoms resulting from trauma can directly impact a student's ability to learn, meet behavior expectation and form healthy relationships in school. Students might be distracted by intrusive thoughts about the event that prevent them from paying attention in class, studying, or doing well on a test. Long term exposure to violence can lead to decreased IQ and reading ability.

<https://traumasensitiveschools.org/trauma-and-learning/the-problem-impact/> This is the reason why we are addressing all of the distinguished needs of our kids and staff with the goal of academic achievement has minimum impact on those being affected.

Community and Parents

The support and kind gesture from the community and parents during the past three months has been, nothing less than exceptional. It is no wonder this community is so strong. There are solid resilient pillars all around us.

As far as the media presence in and around our district, we have had just under 60 requests for comment. Early on in this journey, Sheriff Fitzgerald ask the media to cease and desist. As I shewed folks away from our kids, I said that we would give them comment when Jayme is returned home safe and sound. We have done no news comments during school hours, but we provided 10 main networks with comment. I had help from our three principals, and we are now going to move forward with nothing further to say at this time.

I do want to have a shout out to our local News Shield who, I believe, did the best article of all, if you haven't read it, you should give it a look. And I

believe that it is because they are directly part of this family, they didn't even need to ask for comment.

I have met with three of our area villages in order to recruit task force members that would commit to conversations regarding the future of BASD. I have also continued individual community conversations that were well worth while this month. If you know of any folks that would entertain a conversation with me regarding our district and community, please get those names to my awesome assistant, Carissa.

Extracurriculars

Our sporting teams from BHS as well as Riverview are surrounded with multiple big wins. Wrestling-Merrill Invitational-William Waldofsky placed first in his weight class & Chase Peltier placed fifth in his weight class. Ladysmith Invitational-William Waldofsky and Tristan Massie placed first in their weight class, Chase Peltier place fourth and William Weise placed fifth Girls Basketball-Won three games in row in January. Hockey-The Icemen Coop is having a very successful season given a competitive schedule. Their coaches enjoy seeing the chemistry & teamwork between these players from different schools. We had a youth wrestling tournament and little dribblers basketball opportunities. We had a wonderful Talent show this past weekend sponsored by our music department, our FFA chapter is busy as usual and we had students attend the Wisconsin FFA Halftime Conference and leadership conference. Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Lytle's 6th and 7th-grade band students enjoyed a performance of New Music Composer Series at Orchestra Hall and our BHS Student Senate Spirit Committee held their first Treat Tuesday. We sent two busloads of kids skiing this month. We had nine students named all-conference honors choir. Our Bear ice fishing team did great at Amacoy Lake Tournament in Bruce! Overall, our staff is doing a beautiful job keeping kids engaged with positive activity.

Facilities

Amongst all the news, our construction project trudges forward. While it is clearly full of trials and tribulations, in the end we are going to have a beautiful facility for our choir, band and agriculture. Our Tech Ed remedies are also on the docket. Our last phase will include our art department and nearby classrooms. We are looking at some multi-use spaces for our final phase in order to provide flexible space for activities that could be utilized to promote student engagement.

Finance

We have completed our needs assessment document for our 5-year and long-term planning. Andrew and I will work on putting this in priority number and getting some estimates attached to each piece of this puzzle.

Food Service

I just wanted to shout out to our Food Service staff for begin so flexible in your preparations as we deal with the construction project, as they have had many cold mornings. Yet, as I walked in there last week, I was greeted by the smell of homemade lasagna and smiles. You are always there when we need you and for that thank you!

Health and Safety

We are moving forward with many health and safety initiatives. We are organizing a training for our bus drivers which will include such items as situational awareness, de-escalation strategy and first aid.

We are in the midst of assessing the health of our school district using a tool called healthier generations. Once our assessment and improvement plan is complete the state will grant us awards accordingly.

Pupil Services

We have a powerful group of folks from the Department of Justice who will be visiting us on January 29th. We are working out the details for this visit with a focus on staff and student resiliency.

School Board

Our School board is attending the annual WASB convention this week.

Staff Talent/Development

Our trauma team attended their second session regarding strategies to deal with childhood trauma. We have one more session, and we need to complete the remaining tiers of DPI modules. The next step will be for the team to organize our universal approach.

We also have groups of elementary grade levels working our next steps of curriculum. Their scope of work is beyond Golden Standards and is moving into aligning common assessments.

We are continuing our Go Math trainings so we are promoting maximum utilization of our new curriculum resources.

Technology

Our technology department is doing a beautiful job keeping up with our construction project as well as continuing to address all the needs of our students and staff.

Transportation

A bus company from Minnesota reached out to us and provided donuts to our transportation department. I joined them as we discussed all the concerns that are bus drivers have in regards to safety. We talked about everything from latch key students, bus cameras, reporting folks that run through our bus stop signs, etc. It was great conversation.

We also celebrated the work of our crossing guards this month and had a nice breakfast together.