

Madeira High School PTO Meeting

September 10, 2020

Superintendent Report

Kenji Matsudo:

Lots going on at start of the school year. We did have a new board member join. Pat Shay was on for 10+ years, but moved out of district. Board needed to appoint new board member. Dave Eberly (?) appointed as new member. Dave will serve through Dec 2021 but can rerun at that time. Dave is a long time community member and has 2 kids who graduated from high school as well as 1 child still in high school.

Still trying to do planning commission studies. 4 studies happening this year. Madeira restart response team - small group doing that this school year. Study on mirrors and windows, equity and inclusion study. Staff mental health and wellness study. The staff is our greatest resource, they do exceptional work. Will be asking planning commission to look at some specific best practices that the district can provide for mental health and wellness. This is an exceptionally tough year for our staff and this is important for us as an organization to look at this. Salary and Benefits study will continue which happens every year.

Covid Update: Releasing new screening reminder for parents. Have created a visual document. We are having good participation, but not full participation on screening for covid symptoms. Going to be asking parents to do this as a reminder.

Madeira Health Watch Dashboard: Dr. Kristen DeMarco and Dr. Folger regularly meeting to discuss the localized measures and Madeira Indicators. Many districts are monitoring these data points in many different ways. Dr. Folgers has helped show us some sites that look at suburban data. Meeting every Thursday evening and looking at data to discuss need for switching between learning modalities. This team helps us discern and make the right decisions before having to switch to a remote situation completely.

When we get a positive case we are reaching out to the Health Department and are doing contact tracing through seating charts. Inform the class and the school district. As of now, we have had 3 positive cases in the district. Have created a chart to describe and show what happens when a student or staff member is positive for covid-19. It takes our admin team quite a bit of time to reach out and do the contract tracing when we have a positive case. We take this very seriously. Hamilton County Public Health is who determines who must quarantine. We, as a district, follow through on what Hamilton County Public Health says we need to do in terms of quarantining.

Building Update: Have been able to renovate the cafeteria area. Still working on the auditorium area renovation. We have renovated the art room, the foods room, and the special ed room. The kids seem to be enjoying the new cafeteria area.

Dave Bergan:

Tuesday night was a busy night. People were struggling to get a space, which helped it feel alive around here again. Kenji covered everything unless anyone has any questions.

Theater Update: The auditorium will be awesome. Stage comes out farther. Orchestra pit will be lower. We now have a raised sound booth area. Many new features. New seating, new finishes. There is now a band storage area which is great for marching band. There is a multi purpose room that will be used for a choral room. We hope to have kids in this space (choral room) within the next few weeks. It looks like productions may be possible by spring. This will have to be in accordance with the governor and state guidelines for theatrical productions, which just came out about 3 weeks ago.

Principal Report

Dave Kennedy:

Thank you to the PTO for helping provide snacks and treats to the staff. The staff PTO membership is at 100%. Beth is great at helping with this.

We have some new staff members. Audrey (Choir), Ryan (Band), Ian (Language Arts), Stephanie is now full time (Creative Foods), Josh Dooley (building sub when needed), Abby and Zack (student teachers).

Gretchen Bloomstrom is the new MHS and MMS Assistant Principal. Has always worked in HS but has middle school experience through coaching. Excited to have Gretchen with us.

We have all lost and gained some things due to this pandemic. We are stressing that it is relationships over content. Working to connect despite the distance. We are encouraging staff to only think of mapping out 2 weeks at a time. As staff, we can rely on each other. We are going to be doing a lot of problem solving this year.

We are doing a lot more on screens, masking more, distancing more and cleaning more. The students are doing a fantastic job. The kids have acclimated well, at times, better than the adults. The students are trying to do all they can so they can continue to come to school. There is a lot of integration with technology which is going well. We are outside more for classes, lunch, etc. We are using laptops more to help include all of the remote/online learners. Dave Kennedy sent out a survey - 60 responses or so back so far. Most feel safe sending kids back. Most feel that new protocols impact learning "a little bit". The new hallway routines impact the daily experience at school "a little bit". Lunch impact is also showing the majority feel there has been "little impact" or "not at all". Mask Impact shows to be mostly "not a big deal" or "challenging but understand". Initial data says that we are going in the right direction with all of the changes that have been made. We will continue to collect data and assess. Will be sending survey out one more time. Some had problems accessing survey the first time it was sent out.

From Dave's perspective, things are going very well.

Questions from those joining meeting:

(Jennifer Kelch) Symptom list was sent out in restart documents. Seemed very extensive. If a student stays home due to symptom list, they may not have the option to zoom in. Now, if a child stays home, they may or may not be able to zoom in and will be marked as absent. What to do if keeping a child home due to symptoms - but is perfectly fine to come in.

(Dave Kennedy). If a student is not feeling well but is well enough to participate, they can still zoom in. Students should stay home when they aren't feeling well. When you have to miss, immediately reach out to teacher to let them know you will be zooming in. (Kenji) - we know the wording is vague. At the HS level, it is much easier to zoom in. It is more complicated at the MS and Elementary school. If a child can zoom in, they should. If they are sick and truly cannot participate, then they will be marked as absent and should rest. In regards of absences, we are required by state to report who does not show up for school. We want parents to be diligent about keeping kids home who have symptoms. It has turned out that our hope of kids being able to just jump on zoom is not as easy as we thought. Its harder to manage than we expected. We do want kids to be able to stay home if need be, and it is okay for a kid to miss school just like would happen in any other year.

Bach to school night; was different due to zoom but went well.

Senior Nights: Still happening. Still trying to do all the things we would usually do, just in a different fashion.

National Merit Semi-Finalists have been announced.

Upcoming Events: Sept. 25th Staff in Service Day. Likely cannot do day of service, so it is cancelled. Homecoming/Spirit week will still be happening - a dance is highly unlikely. Still trying to vet out some options with student leadership. Conference nights are coming up.

Question: National Honor Society Volunteer requirements - how will we adjust for that? Dave Kennedy is looking into this to see how we will approach that this year.

Vince Rahnfeld:

Counselors are doing a virtual meeting this morning. Natalie is out on maternity leave. In the meantime, Robin Wellscamp is filling in for her.

We have a financial aid night tonight. Invitations for registrations have gone out. Mike from Xavier will be leading this meeting tonight at 6:30. Will be asking to post a recording of this zoom meeting.

Junior and Senior Night - post secondary meeting was in August (will be posting recording of meeting). There were some zoom issues in that meeting, but we are working on improving the zoom meeting. Almost all seniors have zoomed into college meetings. Individual meetings with seniors will be beginning soon. This is a very different college application process than usual. It will be important to go onto websites and to stay up to date with college procedures for applications. Deadlines for college applications are generally the same.

Teachers are working on making the zoom experience for students as beneficial as possible. The counselors have reached out to all remote and online learners this week to check in with them. Responses from students are coming in. It seems like the students who are working from home are doing well, but it does seem that they are missing their time in school and with

friends/students. Mixed on how students feel - some students were involved in the decision making process to be remote/online, others had parents make the decision for them.

Working through schedule conflicts. We have had the usual class changes, moving one class, etc. Seniors have had the largest issue with having to adjust schedules and the seniors have handled this very well. Instruction numbers in classrooms are closely monitored as we are keeping our eye on the physical space available in smaller rooms. Parents and students have been very helpful, understanding and supportive in schedule change.

Question about LEAP: Most of their ACT, SAT prep has been moved online. Madeira usually hosts an event. Do we have any information on how this will proceed this school year? Dave Kennedy will be looking into this to find out the plan for LEAP this year. Vince says we are planning on doing the Spring ACT for students. We will have to wait and see what the public health environment will be like around that time. It has been a challenge to get this testing accomplished due to schedule changes/cancellations due to health environment. Many colleges are waiving testing or having testing as optional due to health environment. October 14th - PSAT day.

Question about scholarships and test scores: How will this work (scholarships based on test scores) if colleges are going to "Test Optional". Going to have to go to individual colleges to get information about this. Have heard that some colleges are changing criteria for this. Some are replacing the test score with essay, etc.

PTO Updates:

New webpage. Have tried to share this as much as possible. Unfortunately we are very down on our membership this year. Only have 46 families this year. Last year we had 122 families. Given everything that is going on, it is likely that this is just not a priority.

Working on how to accomplish teacher appreciation - possibly by meals during conference time. This is very important. Staff will be there after hours during conferences, so meals would be a great support.

Dave will include a paragraph about joining the PTO into the newsletter.