

# THE D118 UPDATE- Staff Edition



**Superintendent's Corner**

**May 19, 2021**

*Good afternoon D118 Family!*

*As promised, I want to keep you updated on topics that were discussed at the May 12, 2021 BOE meeting. I hope this highlighted update will help everyone to have a better understanding and improve communications within our District.*

## **Return to School Plan XIV**

Mr. Krapf and Mr. Thomas addressed the Board regarding concerns on upcoming travels to Orlando, Florida and Washington, D.C. with the band, orchestra, and choral students.

Mr. Krapf, Band Director, advised the plan is to use fundraisers with a significant profit margin to offset costs for the entire trip. It is their goal to help alleviate some of the financial pressure for students and parents. One example of a very profitable event is the Danville Gardens fundraiser. While the students are in Florida, they will be able to participate in a movie recording clinic, and a jazz/ orchestra performance.

Mr. Thomas, Vocal Director, discussed concerns about traveling to Washington, D.C. because of the uncertainty of having the Midwest Classic. This event provides funding for out of state travel and if it is not an option again this year, the group will consider a smaller trip (an overnight show with an educational component).

## **Return to in Person Guidance**

I discussed the Illinois State Board of Education's, "Return to In-Person: Lessons from the Pandemic" document as we look forward to returning to in person learning. The most important lesson cited by ISBE- human welfare comes first. The document also included the following resources and considerations for district leaders:

### **1. Financial Considerations**

- a. Within 30 days of receiving ESSER III funds, districts must make a 3-year plan available to the public for comment- we intend to reconvene our Transition Teams (staff, parents and students) to develop the plan
- b. Must align with the School Improvement Plan (SIP)
- c. Use ISBE's P20 Guidance
- d. Layer/ braid ESSER I, II and III funding

- 20% must be used to support learning loss.
  - e. Districts can supplant (cover costs that were originally paid by using other funds).
  - f. Consider using funds for new construction, renovations or the acquisition of property that will aid in cleaning, sanitization, air quality and social distancing.
    - Examples include classroom additions, new buildings, HVAC renovations, outdoor seating, bathroom renovations, cafeteria renovations (p. 14)
2. Transportation Considerations
    - a. To support the health and welfare of families
    - b. For family and community engagement progress
  3. Instructional Considerations
    - a. Extending the school year/day
    - b. Strengthening summer school opportunities
    - c. Summer transitions programs
    - d. Responsive instruction
  4. Equity and Inclusion Considerations
    - a. Hire Community Engagement Liaisons.
    - b. Develop social/emotional learning opportunities.
    - c. Strengthen/ develop health/mental health partnerships.
  5. Staff Engagement Opportunities
    - a. Educational
    - b. Training
    - c. Staff Book Studies
  6. Family Engagement Opportunities
    - a. Family night events
    - b. Connecting families within the district
    - c. Hiring a Family Engagement Advocate
  7. Resources and Considerations for Teachers
    - a. Instructional planning
    - b. Instructional delivery

For more information, please review the "Return to In-Person: Lessons Learned from the Pandemic," available on BoardBook. A copy of the document is also attached to this email.

## **P-20 Council Guidance**

The Illinois State Board of Education created a P-20 Council for learning Renewal Resource Guide that outlines twelve priority topic areas focusing on spending our ESSER money. They suggest that as a district focus on addressing three to five challenging areas using the documentation. Using the information in the Small Insights presentation, our team began to dig into this document. Based on the responses, several themes emerged that appeared to coincide with five of the P20 chapters:

1. Support enrollment, retention, and re-engagement with communication initiatives for academic progression (Chapter 1)
2. Build individualized student fact base with academic and behavioral diagnostics and progress monitoring. (Chapter 2)
3. Provide out of classroom learning experiences through tutoring, before/after school, summer camps, etc. (Chapter 4)
4. Mental wellness and trauma-informed, culturally responsive schools (Chapter 7)
5. Increase flexibility of secondary, post-secondary environment to accommodate for other responsibilities/Enable work-based career development experiences and career placement services (Chapter 10 & 12-I thought they were very similar and did not separate.)

The Board will review the information and provide direction. The staff, parent, and student Transition Teams will provide input, as well as the student advisory groups from the elementary schools. The information will be combined to develop the 3-year plan. We will then publish the plan for the required 30-day period, allowing for public comment. June 30, 2021 is the target date for completing the plan. This is a very large document. Therefore, I did not attach it to this document, but it is available on BoardBook.

## **Non-Participatory Data**

Mr. Hart discussed both in person and remote student participation this school year. Teachers have collected data which has been disaggregated by school to help develop the necessary interventions:

1. Non-Participatory includes students enrolled, but never participated (did not log in, did not turn in any work, did not respond to calls, emails, or home visits).
2. Inconsistent Participatory includes students enrolled, occasionally participated and/or logged in, and may or may not have responded to communication attempts. For these students, the teacher is unable to determine students' progress because of the minimal amount of work submitted.
3. Participatory Students includes students enrolled, participated and/or submitted work. Although the student is compliant, scores indicate areas of weakness, which need to be addressed.

A breakdown of each school is available on BoardBook.

## **Summer School**

Dr. Yacobi discussed how summer school will be the first step to addressing learning loss due to the Pandemic. All of our students are going to need instructional support. Students who have participated minimally and non-participatory students will have individualized instructional plans to determine the next grade level, and what supports students may need to close learning gaps. We are grateful to our staff who have expressed to our parents the importance of this intervention. Due to their outreach, parents have responded and enrolled students into the summer school program in record numbers!! Thank you!!!

## **2021-2022 Waiver of School Fees**

The Board of Education agreed to waive *ONLY* student registration fees for the 2021-2022 school year.

