

9525 E. Highland Road Howell, Michigan 48843 Telephone (810) 626-2100 Fax (810) 626-2101

March 31, 2021

Dear HCS Education Community:

Since my last communication on March 24, 2021 the district update is as follows:

Livingston County Average Percentage of Positive Results for all Tested: 13.7% Livingston County Average Number of Positive Cases Per Day: 84.1 Livingston County Average Number of Positive Cases Per Week: 588.7 Elementary Students in Quarantine Since Last Week: 125 Students & Staff Grade 5-8 Students in Quarantine Since Last Week: 60 Students High School / Alternative Education Students in Quarantine Since Last Week: 75 Students

Currently, the county is seeing about 84 cases per week. The State of Michigan is showing a 12.6% positivity rate, 4,307 daily cases, and roughly 30,146 positive COVID cases per week. In the past week, I have been notified of positive or probable COVID cases at Creekside Elementary (1), Round Elementary (2), Village Elementary (1), Farms Intermediate (3), Hartland Middle School (1), Hartland High School (7) Food Service Staff (1), and Transportation Staff (1) with additional community positive cases.

The above numbers represent the best I could do considering that all our buildings are off for the Spring Break. I think they are very close if not absolutely correct.

It is my hope that everyone is safely enjoying time off school and when we return you practice the safe measures, we have in place to reduce any transmission of the COVID virus in our schools. If you have traveled outside of the Michigan or engaged in large group, multi-family gatherings I urge you to voluntarily quarantine for 10 days upon return. If you have any symptoms of sickness, I urge you to stay home. If someone in the household is being tested, I urge you to keep everyone home until the test comes back and we know how to move forward.

Regarding the recent allegations of racism at Hartland High School, I would like to share with the community that the Board of Education has been working closely with me to chart the path forward for our students and staff. The Board is looking closely at restructuring the sub-committee process to ensure that they are looking at diversity, equity, and inclusion in their goal structuring process, annual direction for the district. The Board is supportive of the creation of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and will have two members Mrs. Michelle Hemeyer (BOE Secretary) and Mrs. Kristin Coleman (BOE Trustee) involved with this new committee. There will be an open BOE seat for each meeting so that different BOE members may sit in on the meetings periodically. The first meeting will include Mr. Thom Dumond, BOE President as a guest member. The DEI Committee will start its work with a four-hour Implicit Bias training on April 30, 2021 offered by Mr. Alfredo Hernandez with the Michigan Department of the Office of Civil Rights. This will lead into the first full committee meeting soon after. I believe this group represents the district well and will move us forward in a positive way. The Chairpersons will be Mr. David Minsker, Asst. Supt. of Curriculum & Instruction, Mr. Scott VanEpps, Asst. Supt. of Personnel and Student Services, and Mrs. Kate Gregory, Hartland High School Principal.

If you have questions regarding your child, please remember that the chain of command is as follows:

Classroom Concern

Teacher Building Principal Asst. Supt. of Curriculum & Instruction Superintendent Board of Education

Transportation Concern

Bus Driver Transportation Director Director of Operations & Transportation Asst. Supt. of Business and Operations Superintendent Board of Education

Food Services

Building Principal Director of Food Services Asst. Supt. of Business and Operations Superintendent Board of Education

Extracurricular Concern

Coach, Director or Sponsor Athletic Director or Building Principal (if not athletic) Building Principal Superintendent Board of Education

Special Education

Teacher Building Principal Director of Special Education Asst. Supt. of Personnel & Student Services Superintendent Board of Education

Technology in Schools

Teacher Building Principal Director of Technology Superintendent Board of Education

In most cases, when I receive a concern I will ask if the chain of command has been followed. If the answer is no, I will most often send the issue back to the person skipped in the chain of command. While I will always listen, I find that most issues can be resolved by working with the individuals most closely associated with the concern and who have the best knowledge to address the concern.

Respectfully,

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