

December 4, 2018

To: Brent Lehman

Cindy Engle

Jaime Macklin

Becky Durnbaugh

Ben Fawbush

Mike Riehm

Re: Minutes from Monthly Discussion Meeting, 12/04/2018

The Monthly Discussion Meeting convened at 7:00 Tuesday morning, December 4, 2018, in the Board Room at the North Adams Administration Building. In attendance were Brent Lehman and Larry Carty, representing North Adams Administration, and Becky Durnbaugh, Cindy Engle, Ben Fawbush, Jaime Macklin and Mike Riehm representing the North Adams Teachers Association.

Revisited Items

1. **SY 2020-2021 Calendar:** The revised draft calendar was provided for review and discussion. Superintendent Lehman shared that he had talked with the superintendents from the other County districts, and a first student day of Tuesday, August 11, 2020 is the preferred date. Commencement is shown as June 6, 2021, but is labeled "TBD". It will remain open for further discussion. This calendar will be taken to the School Board next week at the December meeting for their review and approval.
A question was asked about the Wednesday before Thanksgiving; can we take it as an eLearning Day? The only State-permissible uses of eLearning days are 1) during adverse weather conditions, and 2) for staff professional development. We cannot simply designate a day as eLearning if it does not meet one of these criteria.

New Items from NATA

1. None.

New Items from Administration

1. **Teacher Appreciation Award:** The money is here, in North Adams' account, and it will be distributed Friday, December 7, in the next payroll. The School Board will have to approve the amounts retroactively, otherwise distribution would be delayed past the State-mandated deadline. You will recall that the amount awarded to Highly Effective instructors is 25% higher than that awarded to Effective instructors. Consequently, the gross amounts being distributed are \$518.64 for Highly Effective and \$414.91 for Effective, respectively. A detailed explanation of the net amounts being distributed will be generated and distributed by Superintendent Lehman.

2. **Construction Update:** A project summary with pictures is being generated by Leah Thompson. Most have noticed that the temporary wall where old D wing was is down. The expanse of the new cafeteria and kitchen areas is striking. Those will be in full use effective January 3, 2019, when school resumes after Christmas break.

The renovated Locker Room is on track to be put into service Monday, January 8, 2019.

Some of the old playground equipment will be moved to the new site this summer to join new equipment that has been purchased. The playground for the older group of elementary students will be at the bottom of the hill on the north side of the elementary wing, near the bus area.

As a side note, comment was made that the mulch for the playground at Southeast has gotten quite thin, a condition worsened by the wet conditions and freeze/thaw pattern of weather this fall. Action is being initiated to correct this condition and assure that the playground is usable through the end of the school year.

Concerns were expressed regarding the intermittent exposure of students and instructors to fumes in various parts of the buildings. It is thought that they are sometimes adhesives, sometimes welding and sometimes exhaust fumes from miscellaneous equipment in use by contractors. Those concerns will be passed along to John Jaco. In addition, it was requested that when staff experience this exposure again, they email Larry Carty immediately. That way, John or Tim or whoever is on site from Performance Services can be notified of the occurrence and they can seek out the source. Measures will be taken to either eliminate the source entirely, or to perform whatever duties that are generating the fumes at a time when no one is present to be subjected to them.

Demo work in the Middle School kitchen area will begin once equipment is removed to the new kitchen. Similar work behind the stage area may start sooner; isolation by means of a temporary barrier might permit containment of noise and dust.

Still awaiting installation of new cores in doors. Once that is completed, new keys can be distributed.

With no items remaining on the agenda, the Monthly Discussion Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Larry G. Carty

Director of Operations