

February 5, 2019

To: Brent Lehman

Cindy Engle

Jaime Macklin

Becky Durnbaugh

Ben Fawbush

Mike Riehm

Re: Minutes from Monthly Discussion Meeting, 2/05/2019

The Monthly Discussion Meeting convened at 7:00 Tuesday morning, February 5, 2019, 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 and Mike Riehm representing the North Adams Teachers Association.

#### **Revisited Items**

1. **None**

#### **New Items from NATA**

1. **Weather Decisions:** Last week's string of adverse weather days prompted a lot of discussion regarding weather delays, cancellations and make-ups. The question was asked, "What if we don't miss any days from now until Presidents' Day, do we still have to use it as a make-up day?" Yes, we have publicized that it will be used as a make-up for last Wednesday; it would be too confusing to try and reset that now. We will use eLearning days for any additional days that have to be canceled due to weather.  
Superintendent Lehman reminded everyone that we (North Adams) had previously determined that we would limit eLearning to 5 days per school year. It has been decided that we are not going to observe that limitation this year because we do not have any spare Summer days to sacrifice to make-up; project needs are going to consume every day they can, so we will utilize eLearning as make-up if necessary. A number of staff have commented that eLearning is getting more effective, easier to do. Note was made, though, that people have not been using the labs/school facilities that have been made available, prompting the discontinuance of staffing those facilities. Near the end of this year, we may want to examine current practices and to discuss whether we should revise how we do some things.  
With regard to temperature, it was stated that -20 degrees Fahrenheit is where the line has been drawn for prohibitive exposure. At that point, either actual temperature or wind chill, frost bite can occur in 30 minutes or less. We are prohibited from having school under those conditions.
2. **I Learn:** Concern was expressed that teachers may have to begin grading their own students' tests. It is as yet unknown what the requirements will be, but it seems unlikely that this would be the result. We will have to wait and see what comes of all this.

3. **Renovation Project:** How is the project progressing? Superintendent Lehman mentioned the ongoing headache that getting doors properly keyed and the keys in the hands of those who need them has been. Unmet completion dates have also caused a lot of stress and uncertainty. Noise has caused some intermittent problems, as has difficulty in identifying rooms and areas. The latter issue is one that will require thorough labeling, continuing communications and a bit of time for everyone to get comfortable with. Work is ongoing, and the expectation is for the entire facility to be ready and occupied for the 2019-2020 school year.

#### **New Items from Administration**

1. **None**

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

Submitted by,

Larry G. Carty

Director of Operations