# Board Buzz

Weekly Superintendent Update for the FBISD Board of Trustees

Friday, January 15, 2021

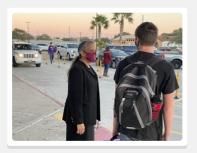


## OFF TO THE RACES!

Whew...it's been an exhilarating first week and a half and I have loved every minute of it! I have had the opportunity to visit each campus during morning drop-off. It has been wonderful to see our Hornets excited to be in school following Christmas break.

At the end of each week, I'll send you a Board Update via this electronic e-newsletter. I expect for it to include a wrap-up of my activities during the week, important updates you need to be aware of, a listing of upcoming events, etc.

I look forward to serving along side you as a Team of 8.









## **GETTING UP TO SPEED**

Since my first day last week, I've been meeting with various department leaders listening to their concerns and working to understand their needs. I'm pleased to report that I've met with all district and campus leadership. Our leaders shared many positive comments about the GREAT things that are going on as well! We have a great team of leaders who truly have this District and our students at the forefront of all that they do.



As I'm visiting campuses and district facilities, I'm analyzing the state of the facilities in regards to maintenance status and safety/security perspective, as well. Our custodial staff is phenomenal! They all take pride in their work and it definitely shows! The buildings are clean and sanitized for our students and staff. #CPH



Hornet Wheels!



Afternoon Dismissal



Visiting Classrooms







Visit with Central Kitchen Crew!

Zoom Session with SPED

**Visiting Transportation** 

I'm in love with their space and equipment!

## SPIRIT FRIDAY BUSES RELEASE!







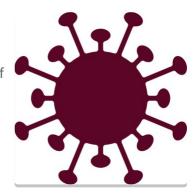
### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

#### **COVID-19 Task Force**

I've revamped the COVID-19 Task Force to incorporate a smaller group of staff members to review the current Re-Opening/Mitigation Plan. The core Task Force includes the following individuals:



- · Cassie Freeman, Human Resources
- Ronnie Robles, Maintenance & Transportation
- · Kim Sneed, Communications



This week the COVID-19 Task Force has been busy delving into the reopening/mitigation plan and reviewing processes and procedures in-place. I'm pleased to announce they are confident in the plan and added only a few minor additions.

I've implemented a daily zoom COVID-19 update meeting for the full Task Force. We meet each day (via Zoom) to review positive cases reported for the day and provide any additional updates. The Ad Hoc members of the Task Force include:

- Dr. Allison Schaum, Curriculum & Instruction
- · Louise Day, Finance and Student Nutrition
- Edgar VanGeem, Special Education

- Alex Puente, Technology
- · Chris Steinbruck, Athletics
- · James Crenshaw, Secondary Principal Leadership
- Dr. Nikol Youngberg, Elementary Principal Leadership
- · Velma Soliz-Garcia, Superintendent

#### **COVID-19 Rapid Testing for Employees**

The District has moved forward and applied to receive rapid testing kits through TEA to be administered to employees if they are feeling unwell during the school day. The Rapid Test is a screening tool that can be used to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and district facilities. At this point, we have submitted the application and are working on a plan on where and when employees can receive the Rapid Test. I'll provide an update on the Rapid Test roll-out in a future Board Buzz.

#### **COVID-19 Communication**

To review the COVID-19 Online Tracker and Re-Opening Plan, click the link below... <a href="https://flourbluffschools.net/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/">https://flourbluffschools.net/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/</a>

#### **HORNET'S NEST PODCAST**

This week's episode of the Hornet's Nest Podcast focuses completely on COVID-19. We're confident this will bring some additional comfort to staff and parents who are concerned with the community numbers on the rise. Click below to listen...

https://anchor.fm/flourbluffisd/episodes/S2E2-COVID-19-Update-ep138g

## M3 (MONDAY MORNING MEETING) WITH CABINET

Monday Morning Meetings are scheduled every Monday morning for all 'Senior Cabinet Administrators'. The agenda includes any and all items that we are analyzing, planning, reviewing, adjusting, etc. It is also a time for us to review upcoming Board Agenda items in preparation for the presentation of information to the Board and to ensure proper procedures are followed as we progress (i.e., committee meetings scheduled, agenda items discussed, next steps, etc.). This is an initiative that will build capacity and cross training among members of the team.

#### Senior Cabinet Members:

Dr. Linda Barganski, Associate Superintendent of Student Services

Dr. Allison Schaum, Chief Academic Officer

Louise Day, Chief Financial Officer

Edgar Van Geem, Director of Special Education

Ronald Robles, Chief Operating Officer

Kim Sneed, Chief Communications Officer

Cassie Freeman, Director of Human Resources

Tracy Dennis, Director of Instruction and Professional Development

Alex Puente, Director of Technology

Chris Steinbruck, Athletic Officer (Optional Attendance)

Duke Canchola, Civilian Chief Administrator (Optional Attendance)

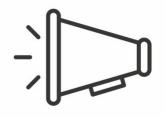
## MEETING WITH DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

Our first Administration Team/District Update meeting was held Friday, January 8. This team includes Campus Principals, Directors, and Senior Cabinet members. The team will meet monthly to discuss items that pertain to all members. All agendas and items discussed will be kept in the cloud and all members have access to a OneNote Notebook (stored in the Microsoft Cloud) that contains agendas and items discussed. It is one way to keep all informed and gives everyone access to documents they may need throughout the year.



## LISTENING SESSIONS WITH FBISD EMPLOYEES

I've scheduled Listening Sessions via Zoom for employees. This will be an opportunity for employees to drop-in and have an open chat with me. I will be discussing COVID-19 mitigation and protocols and listening to the concerns. The time will also be open up to hearing from staff on any other questions, feedback or issues.



Schedule of the Listening Sessions is below...

Tuesday, January 19

10 a.m. - Noon & 2 - 4 p.m.

Wednesday, January 20

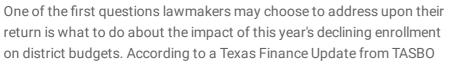
Noon - 2 p.m. & 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 21

8 - 10 a.m.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Texas Legislative Session reconvened this week at the Texas Capitol and public education funding is a top priority.





states that statewide enrollment is down 3% as compared to last year, when this year's budget was built on enrollment growth. The drop was most significant at the early grades, especially prekindergarten, putting lawmakers' significant push to expand PreK opportunity through House Bill 3 at risk. While TEA has an ADA floor in place for the first half of the year, no such floor yet exists for the last half of the year.

State leaders have indicated they are committed to continuing to fund the investments approved as part of the overhaul of the school finance system in 2019.

<u>Click here</u> to read a recent article from the Dallas Morning News on the loss of state funding due to declining enrollment.

Click here to keep up-to-date on progress of all House and Senate Bills and other legislative activity.

It will be an interesting next few months. I'll keep you updated!

## **Attendance**

Attendance: TEA had provided an 18-week "hold-harmless" period for ADA (average daily attendance) of 5367. That safety net has expired. Our current enrollment is 5486 - a decline of 4% January over January (High School +4%, Jr High -4.43%, Intermediate -6.96%, Elementary -10.13%, primary -5.27%, ECC -15.25%) The decline is similar to statewide data recently released by TEA <a href="https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/Student-Enrollment-Summary-Table.pdf">https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/Student-Enrollment-Summary-Table.pdf</a>. School funding is built on average daily attendance will no doubt be impacted. We are working to quantify the impact and will provide updates.

**New Stimulus:** The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSAA will be the new acronym to remember) includes \$5.5 billion for Texas. Commissioner Morath said that no decisions have been made regarding how the latest stimulus dollars would be utilized in Texas. It is possible that the state will use these funds in the same way they used CARES Act to substitute current state funding. More to come...

FBISD "Hold-Harmless" Data



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64			3				4		99	77	85	90		33	194	100	344
05	0				5	6	3	1	95	24	91	90	4		193	184	379
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## **HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE**

#### **Substitutes**

- Currently we have 141 active substitutes 51 of these have not picked up a job this year. We are reaching out to these substitutes to inquire the reason.
- We have 50 qualified applicants that we are completing background checks and fingerprinting on so that we can move forward with hiring



- Posted new job posting for substitutes will also be posting on the on ESC 2 Job Board
- Communication to Substitutes to remind them of the critical need for substitute (Remind Ap/ Aesop – Sending message Thursdays, Fridays, Mondays)
- Will be sending out COVID-19 safety protocol information and links to all subs routinely
- · Researching posting a banner on a parked bus and a billboard advertising for substitutes

#### **Current Job Posting Information**

- Special Education Teacher Junior High
- Pest Control Specialist
- Fleet Mechanic/ Vehicle Mechanic
- District Records/ Personnel Clerk
- Social Worker
- \*HVAC Lead Maintenance Technician
- \*Physical Education Aide Primary
- \*Secondary English/ Language Arts High School
- · Reading and Math Tutors
- Education Aide UP High School
- Science Composite Teacher High School
- Bus Drivers
- Bus Aides
- · Bus Custodians

Positions with an \* indicate that the request to hire paperwork has been submitted from the Principal or Supervisor and that these job postings will be taken down as soon as this paperwork is processed.

FBISD Calendar of Events



Regular Meeting of the Flour Bluff ISD Board of Trustees

When

Thursday, Jan. 28th, 6pm

Where

FBISD Board Room







# **CONTACT INFO**



I have a new district issued cell phone. Please add this number to your contacts. It will be my cell phone number for all district related business.

361.438.0160

flourbluffschools.net

