

THE BELL RINGER

GAVEL-TO-GAVEL MEETING UPDATES

SNAPSHOTS OF SUCCESS: FHS STUDENT MADDIE LONG

The Snapshots of Success for March 24 is Maddie Long, a junior at Fishers High School and the recipient of the 2021 Life Without Limits Award. This honor is given to an individual with physical and/or intellectual disabilities who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to the community of Fishers by promoting inclusion. [WATCH HER STORY](#). FHS Dean of Students Patrick Schooley was also awarded the 2021 Accessibility Award from the Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability. The Accessibility Award recognizes an individual, business, or organization in the Fishers community that has made exceptional contributions to advocate and/or eliminate barriers in aspects of community life to ensure persons with disabilities can access and participate in programs, activities, and events. Patrick is part of the Unified Coaches Association of Indiana and Crossroads Officials Association, is an IHSAA official, and a proud supporter of Indiana and Hamilton County Special Olympics.



OPERATIONS PLAN UPDATE

Board members voted Wednesday to accept the recommendation to move students in grades 7-8 to in-person learning, four-days a week starting on Monday, April 12.

A survey was sent to families with students in grades 7-8 on March 12 to select their preferred learning mode: in-person, four-days a week or 100% virtual to better determine school-wide attendance percentages.

As it stands currently, more than 70% of junior high students will be attending classes in-person Monday through Thursday.

Students who chose to be 100% virtual will not be able to change learning modes. In-person students may pull back to 100% virtual if they find they are not comfortable attending on-site.

As part of the recommendation made by Superintendent Dr. Allen Bourff, all grade levels will continue to be distanced to the greatest extent possible, face one direction in the classroom, and wear masks at all times. Contact tracing will take place at three-feet when this standard is met in the classroom setting. Activities outside of a classroom will continue to be contact traced at six-feet.

Due to the difficulty in distancing in the PreK-4 classroom, entire classes will be quarantined, if a positive student is reported.

VIRTUAL ED IN 2021-22

Plans are underway to offer virtual learning to students for the 2021-22 school year. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Dr. Matt Kegley told the board that even though HSE Schools will be opening next year as 'normal,' there are still families that will likely want to remain virtual.

Kegley said his team is working closely with HSEA to develop a program that will alleviate the need for teachers to manage dual-platforms. Conversations are on-going with elementary- and secondary-level teams. Kegley added they are evaluating the possibility of using Edmentum Online Learning Program to help supplement classes for various subjects. Additional conversations have taken place regarding the need to have someone oversee the virtual-only program, but that would be determined on the level of interest from students and families. Consideration of excluding certain classes that are heavily hands-on in nature and need to be teacher-led is being discussed as well.

Kegley expects to present to the board a virtual-only program option for K-6 and 7-12 at the April 14 meeting.

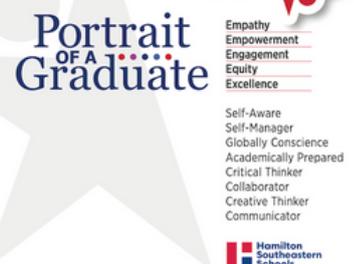
POLICIES APPROVED

Board members approved updates to the following policies during a second reading:

- A03.00 *Mission Statement*
- D06.04 *Free Admissions*
- G02.11 *Family Medical Leave Act 1993*
- G02.01 & A02.00 *Non-Discrimination/Equal Opportunity*
 - (No change to policy, only an update to the Mission Statement link)
- J07.09 and G02.01 *Sexual Harassment*

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

Board members received their first peek at a graphical representation of Portrait of Graduate. The draft images put the eight indicators in a visual diagram. The images will be used to promote Portrait of a Graduate to teachers, students and parents. More to come on how the skills will be measured at a later date.



ENERGY REPORT

Energy Manager Bob Rice presented to the board on Wednesday, sharing that the corporation spent \$985,995 less in 2020 compared to 2019. The savings was due in part to:

- COVID
- Energy Policy
 - Changing behaviors
 - Managing equipment
- Solar Arrays

Rice also highlighted some other exciting news that occurred in 2020. Duke Energy awarded \$103,246 in rebates for LED lighting upgrades at SCE, SCI and HIJH. The energy company also awarded \$1,900.79 in rebates for LED lighting upgrades at FJH. In April 2020, the school corporation was recognized with the Green Ribbon Status from the U.S. Department of Education. Also occurring in the same month, Rice won \$21,039 from Duke Energy Foundation to create a Mobile STEM Learning Lab. But the money hasn't stopped coming in. Back in October, Rice says the corporation received a \$40,000 grant from the Office of Energy Development for an LED retrofit for TCE.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Allen Bourff updated the board on several items of interest, which included:

- Results from a second survey of 9-12 students regarding their preference for in-person learning or virtual are in. 547 students who were 100% virtual would like to return to school following Spring Break. 45 in-person students have asked to switch to the virtual-only model. As it currently stands, Fishers High School will have 51% of its students attending in-person and Hamilton Southeastern will have 59% of its students attending in-person.
- eFridays will continue through the remainder of the year. eFridays were created to allow teachers additional time to create lessons for their virtual students and collaborate together. But eFridays have also been (cont.)

beneficial for professional development, enrichment projects for students, and gives space to virtual-only students to utilize the building for statewide testing.

- Bourff reiterated that he is planning for a "normal" school year in the fall with five-days a week of in-person instruction.
- The Racial Justice Town Hall that took place via Zoom on Tuesday with more than 200 people, led by CEO Nataki Pettigrew, was a success.
- Both FHS and HSE High Schools are hopeful they will be able to conduct a traditional graduation at the State Fairgrounds. Administration is closely monitoring the health and safety mandates for Marion County. The schools are also planning for a senior-only prom following Spring Break.
- The contract for the new superintendent will be presented at the next board meeting for public review.
- CFO Cecilie Nunn will be presenting budget reduction recommendations to the board for information on April 14.