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WHEATLAND-CHILI CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT Board of Education Meeting August 10, 2020

3.a.1. Update on 2020-2021 Tax Rate. At the July 27 meeting, the Board provided authority to the superintendent to set the 2020-2021 tax rates, as the deadline for reporting the rates to Monroe County for timely processing of tax bills occurs after the August 10 Board meeting but before the August 24 meeting. We are in the process of finalizing calculations for the STAR exemptions with the NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services, which affects the establishment of our tax rate.

Although calculations are not yet complete, our tax rate change based on current calculations is at 0.3% compared to the 1% increase anticipated in May 2020. The estimated blended tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value was published as \$23.16 in May 2020, compared to the currently anticipated rate of \$23.00. A summary of tax rate calculations by municipality is included for reference. A complete analysis will be provided at the August 24 meeting. We will also share this update in the September print newsletter that is mailed to all District residents.

At the time of the budget development process, we estimated equalization rates (based on May current rates) of 100% for Brighton, 96% for Chili, 98% for Caledonia, and 94% for Wheatland. You will note that the equalization rates remain the same at this time.

3.a.2. District Reopening Plan. We completed the District's reopening plan by July 31, 2020, submitted to the State Education Department, and have launched the plan on our website. You can review the plan by [clicking on this link](#). To assist our parents in understanding the major points of our reopening plan, we created a **School Reopening Plan – At a Glance**. [Please click here](#) for the **Reopening Plan – At a Glance**. In this document, parents can find:

- Major points about teaching and learning;
- What an in-person, hybrid, and remote learning experience will look for your child(ren);
- Information about our ventilation system;
- How we are meeting CDC guidelines;
- Daily temperature screenings for all students and staff;
- Health care procedures with a suspected COVID-19 case;
- Facility procedures with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case;
- Cleaning and disinfection of facilities;
- Food services; and
- Transportation.

Our immediate concern is and always will be the health and safety of everyone in our schools. We do realize, however, that we may have families who are simply not comfortable with the notion of sending their child(ren) back to school despite our efforts. Parents, therefore, will have the opportunity of selecting a remote option for their child(ren), as long as the Governor approves a hybrid approach for schools.

We also know that there are families in our District without Internet access, and we will again support you with MiFi devices.

For those parents who wish to select a remote learning option for the fall and/or for parents who have no Internet in their homes, we have asked that they complete and return a brief survey no later than **Friday, August 14**. [Click here](#) to see the survey link. As of Thursday, August 6, 2020, when this Report was prepared, we have had 66 parent responses about remote learning and Internet access. To date, we have 14 parents indicating that they do not have Internet and will need a MiFi device. In the spring, we had less than 30 families with this need and will be following up if we do not hear from a family who previously needed this support.

3.a.3. CARES Act Funding. In the Superintendent's Report of July 27, 2020, I provided information on the CARES Act Funding and the amounts to be allocated to Wheatland-Chili. The following was shared:

Wheatland-Chili's Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) allocation is \$41,090. These funds can be utilized for MiFi devices, hardware/software solutions, and costs of professional learning for teachers to effectively deliver remote and digital instruction. Wheatland-Chili's **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) allocation is \$242,446.** These funds can be utilized broadly to support learning needs of our students, for the purchase of supplies to sanitize and clean facilities, mental health services and supports, and summer learning and supplemental afterschool support.

Upon further research, we have realized that the CARES Act Funding is not new funding, but rather more specificity around an amount that was on our state aid run from March 31, 2020. On the run, we have a Pandemic Adjustment of \$282,102 and a Federal Cares Restoration of \$282,102. These stimulus funds are the funds already shared on our state aid run, at a total of \$283,536.

Our plans for utilizing the funds, that are a part of the current budget, remain the same. We have budgeted a portion of these funds to support salaries/benefits of intervention teachers at T. J. Connor who will be utilized in our class size reduction effort to provide for appropriate social distancing. Funds will also be used for providing of MiFi devices to families in need of support and for the cost of the cameras/speakers needed in the classroom for video conferencing capabilities with students.