

Superintendent Report for Meeting

Aaron Rex

3/23/20

- As a leadership team we have been having planning sessions on how to address some gaps we are seeing in reading across the grades. These meetings also allowed us to begin discussing how we can serve our kids in a “summer camp.” I want to thank Carrie and the administrative team for putting a lot of time and thought into these two initiatives. The great news is that we will be able to use the federal ESSER dollars to pay the expenses.
- This past weekend our staff members received their second COVID-19 vaccine. We want to thank Mercy Health and the YMCA for their help with this. It was really a seamless process.
- We were able to attend a second meeting about the Birch Solar project. The county commissioners and schools in both counties continue to research this endeavor to see if a PILOT or traditional taxes are the right way to go for our organizations.
- We have started the third nine weeks. Our teachers are scheduling field trips, we are planning the end of the year events, and it is really rewarding to see how far we have come. I cannot say thank you enough to everyone who has been a part of making this happen!
- Carrie Knoch and I have been in discussions with a group known as Apptegy. We will be using them next year to create a Wapakoneta application for your smartphone. They will also be refreshing our webpage and their services will allow us to update all of our social media outlets at one time. In addition it will replace our current calling system (SchoolMessenger) and our Webpage program (OneView). It will be about a 90-day process to make it all happen.

WAPAKONETA CITY SCHOOLS

Monthly Activity Report-Mike Watt, Director of Operations

March 19, 2021

- **Worked with the track coaches and the maintenance department to get their camera system working for the timing equipment. This should be operational next week. (Weather pending)**
- **Working with Insurance Adjusters for the fire at the football field. Hume Supply has been in contact with the adjuster, and they are working through their prices.**
- **Met with several contractors and received pricing for some of the items that were discussed at the facilities meeting.**
- **Lots of road checks.**
- **Finalized the category 1 funding for ERATE. Our internet access will remain at the NOACSC. We did move to a 2 GIG connection. We have the ability with the contract to go to a 10 GIG speed if necessary over the next 5 years**
- **Working on Classified Negotiations.**
- **Worked on a possible solution to the traffic issues on Blackhoof Street by the Elementary school. Mostly an issue during the morning drop off..**
- **Met with Guy Hut about the area around the flagpole at the high school.**

Thanks,
Mike

Carrie Knoch
Director of Student Achievement
Pre School Coordinator
Gifted Coordinator
Curriculum Coordinator
Testing Coordinator



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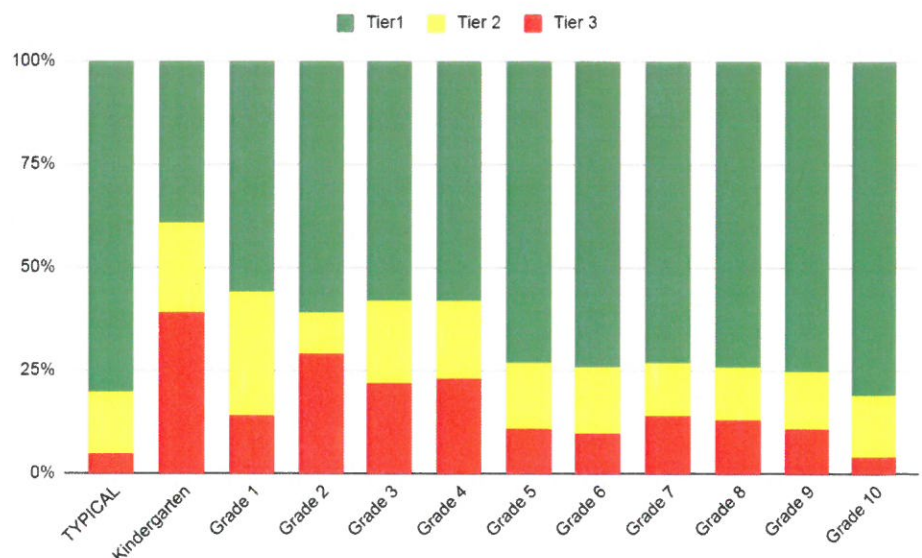
This will be explained in detail on Tuesday night. However, I thought you may want to skim this in preparation for the meeting.

One year ago we were in a state of shock. We were on a temporary closure that would lead to a permanent closure for the school year. Since then we have rallied through making sure our students were fed, learning to use technology that was once foreign to us, spacing our students away from one another, and not teaching as we once would have. We, rightly so, spent the first half of this school year focusing on keeping each other and our students healthy. When we could focus on academics, we also had to teach students in person and balance the demands of keeping our students that were sick or quarantined up to date. We've managed to show grace, compassion, and grit through all this. There is no doubt in anyone's mind that all our staff members have done more than could have ever been expected for our students, each other, and our community during the last year.

Fortunately, it seems as though we are moving to the recovery phase of the pandemic. We can now turn our attention to helping our students heal emotionally and academically. We know we will prevail. We also know that to do so, we will have to dramatically alter the course we are currently on. Thankfully, we have Cares Act Funding and a talented and passionate staff that will be key to helping us get back on track.

Looking at Universal Screening data, we've determined that ELA is our biggest priority right now. We believe that if we move quickly and strategically, we may even end up with better data than we had a year ago. Typically, there will be about 80% of students that will be at a Tier One level. This means that 80% of students will meet or exceed achievement and growth standards with core instruction alone.

Continuing to look at a typical situation, 15% of students would be at a Tier Two level, or would need strategic interventions and core instruction to meet achievement and growth standards. That would leave 5% of students that would be at a Tier Three level, or in need of intensive interventions.



Things that concern us about this data:

- With the exception of Grade 10, the tier 3 percentage is quite a bit high than the 3-tier model
- In the majority of cases, the tier two percentage is also greater than the model
- With the exception of Grade 10, all tier 1 percentages are less than would be expected.

Presumptions made from the data:

- Data concerns are too widespread to be the result of staffing and we also have no concerns with the dedication and talent of our staff. Instead, this is likely a result of scheduling and materials/curriculum.
- Our response to the data needs to be different at different levels (primary, intermediate, middle school, and high school) and we need to be cognizant of the fact that this data will shift forward next year.
 - Primary (grades K-2) - focus should be on the core curriculum. There are too many students in need of intervention to rely on interventions to make a change.
 - Intermediate (grades 3-5) - really needs to be a combination of core curriculum and intervention
 - Middle (6-8) - should focus on interventions with some small adjustments to core curriculum
 - High School - should focus on interventions

In response to this data, we've put together a draft of a three-year plan, starting with summer school and continuing through May 2024. We believe that this plan will mitigate the growth of tier 2 intervention needs and strengthen our core reading program.

Looking at summer school for Rising First Graders (Current Kindergartners) through Rising Freshman (Current Eighth Graders), we've planned a three-pronged approach:

- Increase Student Participation
- Use Strategic, Researched-Based Interventions
- Increase Time for Learning Opportunities

Starting in April of this year, we will also be preparing to focus on the following for the 2021-22 school year. This summer (and again in fall for those that can't attend) we will provide Professional Development in the focus areas. As school begins and we start to put new ideas and materials (in some cases) into play, the administrators will be prepared to support teachers and support staff in TBTs and in the classroom.. The following is what we will focus on next year:

Preschool: Phonemic Awareness This will include full implementation of the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness program.

Kindergarten - Second Grade: Core Instruction in Phonemic Awareness and Phonics. This will include full implementation of the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Program. We will also use the Orton-Gillingham Phonics Program, as designed, in all Kindergarten through second grade classrooms as our sole phonics program. This will replace the material from Journeys. This spring a committee of teachers and administrators will work together to map concepts and lessons for Kindergarten-second grade. Assessments and grade cards will likely need to be adjusted as well.

Third-Fifth Grade: Core Instruction in Phonics and Vocabulary will include the addition of multisyllabic decoding and vocabulary development activities every day. This will replace Journeys Phonics and Vocabulary. Assessments and grade cards will likely need to be adjusted as well. A Strategic, Structured Intervention Program will also be implemented for students in need of tier two interventions for 30-minutes, at least 4 days per week, in addition to core instruction. Students in need of tier 3 interventions will attend for 45-minutes, 5 days per week.

Sixth-Eighth Grade: Core Instruction in Vocabulary will include the addition of strategic, systematic vocabulary development activities every day. A strategic, structured Intervention program will also be implemented for students in need of tier two and tier three interventions in addition to core instruction.

Ninth-Tenth Grade: Several years ago, we added a reading class for 9th and 10th grade. This has seen many benefits. As with most new courses, we are still in a development phase with this class. Next year we would like to focus on adding multisyllabic decoding and vocabulary development activities every day.

Looking forward to the next four school years, the chart below is our draft plan to use the Science of Reading to improve growth and achievement. As you look at this, please remember that draft plans can change as data changes.

	K-2			3-5			6-8			Reading 9 and 10			
	June 2021- May 2022	June 2022- May 2023	June 2023- May 2024	June 2021- May 2022	June 2022- May 2023	June 2023- May 2024	June 2021- May 2022	June 2022- May 2023	June 2023- May 2024	June 2024- May 2025	June 2021- May 2022	June 2022- May 2023	
Phonics	Tier 1	Tier 3 Tier 2		Tier 3 Tier 2 Tier 1 Tier 3 Tier 2			Tier 3 Tier 2 Tier 1	Tier 3 Tier 2 Tier 1	Tier 3 Tier 2 Tier 1			Tier 1	
Fluency													
Vocabulary		Tier 3 Tier 2 Tier 1		Tier 3 Tier 2			Tier 3 Tier 2 Tier 1	Tier 3 Tier 2 Tier 1	Tier 3 Tier 2 Tier 1			Tier 1	
Text Compre- hension			Tier 3 Tier 2 Tier 1	Tier 3 Tier 2	Tier 1 Tier 3 Tier 2	Tier 1	Tier 3 Tier 2 Tier 1	Tier 3 Tier 2 Tier 1	Tier 3 Tier 2 Tier 1			Tier 1	
Written Expression						Tier 1				Tier 1			
PD	SOR and Phonics	Vocabulary	Comprehen- sion	Written Expression	SOR and Phonics	Vocabulary	Comprehen- sion	Written Expression	SOR and Vocabulary	Phonics?	Comprehen- sion?	Written Expression	Phonics and Vocabulary
TBT or Dept Meetings	Science of Reading			Science of Reading					Science of Reading				

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3-23-2021

Wapakoneta High School Board Report:

On March 9 our junior students took a free ACT exam at Wapakoneta High School. This is the fifth year we have done this and it is a requirement by the Ohio Department of Education. In years past we have not been able to provide instruction on this day for the rest of our students. However, this year our teachers were able to provide online instruction for the rest of our students so they could continue with their education. I believe this is one positive that has come from the COVID experience.

On March 9 our students scheduled for their 2021-2022 classes. Our guidance department is currently in the process of putting together next year's schedule. This is a rather large puzzle during any year but with the large incoming 8th grade class, this requires even more creativity when putting this schedule together.

On March 18, Chad Dunlap from Wapakoneta spoke with our Principal/Student Advisory Council and Gatekeepers Club. His presentation was a powerful, eye-opening experience for many of these students. Chad has had to endure some difficult experiences during his youth and has found the courage to overcome them. I truly appreciate him for coming and speaking to our students.

Scott Minnig

Principal



Will Snyder, Principal
Kyle Cutnaw, Assistant Principal

WAPAKONETA MIDDLE SCHOOL

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3/23/21

Teacher Clarity: We have recently finished our book study for teacher clarity. The book has helped drive multiple instructional initiatives that our building has been working on the past few years.

- **Evaluating ODE Standards:** teachers dissected standards from their content areas to better understand the verbs and depth of knowledge levels.
- **Common Planning Time:** teachers are taking time out of their common planning time to align units and lessons across their departments.
- **Vertical Alignment:** meetings are taking place across the different buildings to align curriculum vertically to ensure that appropriate standards are being taught to make transitions occur more naturally and smoothly for students and teachers.
- **Co-Teaching:** professional development has been taking place to provide training for new co-teaching teams to provide direction on research based strategies for effective co-teaching.

Transition Day: Meetings have taken place to plan for Transition Day, which will take place on May 21, 2021. We are excited to provide an opportunity for students to tour new classrooms and ease the transition for next school year.

March 2021 Report to the Board of Education

Arrival:

- As always, we continue to look at ways in which we can *#bebetter* at Wapakoneta Elementary School. One of the areas in which we have sought to improve is our morning drop-off procedures. With having so many families dropping off students in the morning, there are times in which the traffic is backed up on the city streets. To help expedite morning drop off, we have extended the curb area in which families drop off their children. By doing so, we are able to have 9-10 carloads of students exit their cars at the same time instead of 5-6 carloads of students. We have found that this change in procedure has helped to shorten the amount of time families are waiting in line to drop off their children. It has also helped to reduce the backup of cars on the nearby city streets. We appreciate the help of Mr. Rex, Mr. Watt, Officer Eisert, and the Wapakoneta Police Department as we have all worked together to brainstorm ways that we can improve our student drop-off procedures.

Cereal Box Fundraiser:

- In late February, two of our teachers (Mrs. Puthoff and Mrs. Sammons) shared a fundraising idea with us. They had learned of schools holding a Cereal Box fundraiser challenge. With their leadership, our students, staff, and families were able to collect 2,174 boxes of cereal, which were later donated to Mercy Unlimited. Before donating these boxes, we were able to hold two sets of cereal box dominos challenges, one with the upstairs classes and one with the downstairs classes. There was a lot of problem-solving and critical thinking by students and staff members to make the boxes fall throughout the hallway. We appreciate everyone who helped to make this a successful service learning opportunity for our students.

Positive Behavior Interventions:

- This month in TBTs, we have been learning more about student behavior. We have learned about the ABCs of behavior (antecedents, behaviors, consequences), the functions of behavior (sensory, escape, attention, and tangible), and interventions for each function of behavior. We have invited Mrs. Dellinger, our school counselor/social worker, to meet with teachers during our TBT meetings to help us better understand the functions of behavior. Next month, we will spend time learning about the antecedents and consequences, and how they help us to better understand and provide interventions for different types of behavior. We are grateful for Mrs. Dellinger's willingness to not only work with our students, but to work with our staff as well.

Cridersville Elementary Board Report
3-23-2021

Hard Working Redskin - Jill Stubbs has initiated a celebration program for staff members at CES. Each week on Friday, Mrs. Stubbs will read a short paragraph about the special qualities of a staff member. As a recipient of this award, the staff member gets to hang a Wapakoneta Redskins "W" on their door and also receives a gift card to various places around the community. I would like to thank Mrs. Stubbs for reaching out to these community members that offered gift cards, and for taking the time to recognize our hard working staff.

Spring Pictures - Today marked a special day as Lange Photographics traveled the building to take spring pictures for the yearbook. This is always a special time because this signals that the year is entering the 4th nine weeks, and the weather is becoming warmer. Lange Photographics has always done a great job with all our students and we would like to thank them for that.

Right to Read Week - I hope that you were all able to see Cridersville Elementary on the Lima News March 2. Last month I stated that we were excited to begin Right to Read Week, and the students and staff did not disappoint. Each day of the week, a new holiday was celebrated. Students and staff dressed up and participated in events all day long. It was a fun week that we were able to share the love of reading with everyone.

Bedtime Stories - I would like to invite everyone to visit Cridersville Elementary PTO Facebook page each night for a bedtime story. Members of the Cridersville school community choose their favorite book each night and go live on Facebook. Students know to log in and watch. As they watch, they post to the video a mystery word given to them early in the week. Each Friday winners are drawn and they will receive a free book. This has become a pretty big deal and now adults are commenting the mystery word (they can't win:))

ATHLETICS

3/23/21

- W- Congratulations to the Boys 200 Freestyle Relay as they finished as State Runners-Up! Cameron Reichenbach, Luke Wierwille, Nate Metzger, Alex Honigford
- W- Colin Mellott qualified for state wrestling, marking the 29th consecutive year a Redskin has qualified for the state meet. He is also our 72nd qualifier for the school.
- W- Rylie Jeanneret represented the girls bowling team at the State tournament a couple weeks ago and finished with a 196-159-196, which placed her 18th in the state. Great Job, Rylie!
- W- Spring sports have all begun practices and will start events next week. Good Luck to all spring athletes and coaches.