



Regional School Unit No. 18

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RSU 18 Community,

We can now officially say that next month this school year will come to a close. In the last week I was able to see lacrosse, baseball and softball games and I also got a chance to go to the civic center with Ms. Callen and Mr. Hallett as plans for graduation were put together. These are normal spring activities; we are moving forward.

A few updates:

COVID in our schools: While it is true that having so many staff and community members fully vaccinated is great a step for our school community, this does not mean that COVID exposures will end in our schools. This week we did have an individual who was in one of our schools for a short period of time who later reported to us that they found out they were positive for COVID-19. Only a small number of people were close contacts, and the staff member in the room this person came into was fully vaccinated.

State Mandates: When the Department of Education announced this week that schools would follow the Governor's recent change in mask mandates, it was predictable that everyone in our school community would have their own opinion on this. Throughout this year we have had families, staff and students tell us we are too strict with COVID protocols and others who have told us we are not strict enough. Answering these questions has been simple. It has not mattered whether most of our staff and community have agreed or disagreed with a mandate from the Department of Education, our path has been the same.... we follow the mandates. This still means distancing inside and outside, hand washing and screening for symptoms. We have followed these mandates all year, and we have been very successful. I have faith in the science behind this newest change that allows people to be outside without a mask, it is safe, and it is a good change for our students and staff.

End of Year Schedule: A reminder that the last day of school this year for students will be June 9th. Staff will be working on June 10th.

FY 22 Budget: The FY 22 budget is up 1.7%. The process to pass the budget for the most part is that of a normal year. On May 20th at 6:00 p.m. in the PAC there is a district budget meeting. At this meeting each section of our budget is reviewed and voted on by taxpayers in attendance. It can be lowered or increased at this meeting. Whatever passes at this meeting is sent forward to be voted on in each town on June 8th. If you live in the district, you can attend the meeting on May 20th to vote on the school budget.

Be safe and have a great week.