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September 3, 2021

Parents, Guardians, and Staff Members

Due to the recent rise in Covid-19 cases and quarantines in our county, the Goshen County School Board held a special board meeting on September 2nd they discussed and took action on a number of agenda items. The following items were discussed at last night's meeting.

- 1) Revisions to Smart Start Plan
- 2) Movement of tiers from 1A to 1B on GCSO Smart Start Plan
- 3) Requirement of face-covering/mask for K-12 students and staff
- 4) Requirement of face-covering/mask for K-8 students and staff
- 5) Requirement of face covering/mask while being transported on Goshen County School Buses per federal order
- 6) Approval of district form for medical exemptions regarding face-coverings/masks for students
- 7) Approval of district form for religious exemptions regarding face-coverings/masks for students

Agenda item number 2 related to the Smart Start plan movement of Tiers 1A to 1B was passed. This means that there will be an increase in mitigation practices at all the schools in Goshen County. The portion of the plan Tier 1B can be found on the Goshen County School District website under Help Center-GCSO Smart Start plan.

Agenda item number 3 requiring face-coverings/masks for students and staff K-12 was passed. What this means that starting on September 7th all students and staff are required to wear a face-covering while in any Goshen County School District facility or any vehicle owned by the Goshen County School District when 6 feet of distance can't be maintained. The details related to how long this rule will be in effect and the specific language related to the rule can be found on the Goshen County School District website under Help Center-GCSO Smart Start Plan-GCSO K-12 Mask Guidance.

No action was taken on agenda item number 4.

Agenda item number 5 requiring face-covering/masks while being transported on a Goshen County school buses per the federal requirement was passed. This means that starting September 7th all students and staff are required to wear a face-covering/mask while being transported by any Goshen County School District school bus until the federal order is rescinded.

Agenda item number 6, the district form for medical exemptions for face-coverings/masks for students was passed. This means that starting immediately, a student can apply for a medical exemption to the face-covering/mask rule. The form that needs to be completed for students can be found on the Goshen County School District website under Help Center-GCSD Smart Start Plan-forms.

Agenda item number 7 the district form for religious exemptions for face-coverings/masks for students was passed. This means that starting immediately, a student can apply for a religious exemption to the face-covering/mask rule. The form that needs to be completed for students can be found on the Goshen County School District website under Help Center-GCSD Smart Start Plan-forms

So far, the start of the school year is not how we would have wished it to start. The positive cases and the number of quarantines have increased dramatically since the first day of school. We have faced this challenge before, and we overcame it as a community supporting each other. I believe that despite the challenges that we have in the weeks ahead, by working together and supporting each other, we will be able to overcome the challenges and continue to help our students succeed. Please reach out Goshen County Central Office with any questions or concerns.

Thank you

Ryan Kramer

Goshen County School Superintendent