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Beloit Proud.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rock County Public School Districts Working Collaboratively on Fall 2020 Plans *10 districts meeting regularly, joined by the Rock County Health Department*

Beloit, WI — Ten school districts in Rock County are working collaboratively to formulate plans/procedures for re-opening schools for the 2020-2021 school year. The superintendents of the 10 districts meet weekly via web conference call, joined by representatives from the Rock County Health Department. With the uncertainty brought on by the COVID-19 public health emergency, the leadership of these districts believe it is essential to work together to bring consistent recommendations to their respective Board of Education.

While Governor Evers' public health emergency declaration ordered all Wisconsin schools closed through June 30, 2020, the guidance from federal, state, and local health officials is less clear with respect to the reopening schools in the fall. The collaborative planning effort involves the Superintendents from the following school districts:

- School District of Beloit
- Beloit-Turner School District
- Bigfoot Union High School
- Brodhead School District
- Clinton Community School District
- Edgerton School District
- Evansville Community School District
- School District of Janesville
- School District of Milton
- Parkview School District

The 10 districts are closely monitoring the situation and are preparing for how school will look/operate in the fall. Their coordinated planning effort will look at a variety of topics/issues related to reopening schools for the 2020-2021 school year, including academics; athletics; community needs; and the health and safety of students, staff, and families.

To help guide their planning, the districts will conduct a common survey of parents to collect feedback from their respective families. The survey is expected to be available to parents/guardians in June.

The School District of Beloit is located in Beloit, Wisconsin. Serving 6,800 students and operating six elementary schools, four intermediate schools, one high school and one alternative school, the School District of Beloit is committed to excellence and diversity. We are preparing and inspiring every student to succeed in life and contribute to an ever-changing world.

The 10 superintendents are working towards commonality and consistency in addressing school reopening matters that exist in the post-COVID-19 world. Each district's Board of Education will ultimately make the decision that is best for their respective community.

"With direction from DPI that decisions for the opening of the 2020-2021 school year be a local decision with guidance from DPI, the ten school districts believed it was crucial to work together to plan and build a framework for the start of the school year," said School District of Beloit Superintendent Sue Green. "The framework begins with a common survey to all families in all 10 districts. We want to gather feedback and use it in our subsequent planning."

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is asking school districts to prepare for three possible scenarios in the fall which include students being back in classrooms full time, a hybrid mix of distance learning and in-person learning, or complete distance learning. "We are spending a great deal of time carefully planning for all three of these scenarios," Green shared. "We will be using the results of our previous parent surveys, staff surveys, and student surveys, as well as the results of the joint Rock County Districts survey."

"At the School District of Beloit, we are also conducting planning sessions next week with teachers from the BEA at each school level for their significant input and direction. We are making sure that the safety and well-being of our students, families and staff is integral to our planning process. We want nothing more than to be back in our schools full-time with our students, but we must wait until we have all the facts and information before we make final decisions.," said Green.

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