

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 18

Thanks to Superintendent Burke!

On this Thanksgiving Day, we are thankful for Superintendent Burke and the SDR administration for their decision to eliminate contact tracing and close contact quarantining in the School District of Rhinelander schools. We are grateful that our children can return to school after the break to an environment free at last of the fear of being pulled out of school and missing learning, athletic, creative and social activities that make their schooling years productive and beneficial.

Thank you, Superintendent Burke, for making a sound decision to support the health and wellbeing of our children. On this Thanksgiving, 2021, we have an additional reason to be thankful!

Protocol Change to Contact Tracing & Quarantines

If you missed Superintendent Burke's message from November 22, he shared the following remarks:

"This is a reminder of the protocol change with COVID starting after Thanksgiving break. The school district will no longer contact trace or use close contact quarantine. We will monitor the impact of this change with our daily meetings and be flexible if needed based on what is happening in our schools. We will continue to monitor active cases in the schools and make decisions on mitigation, including temporary required masking. We will need each household to monitor students daily for symptoms." (1)

There was a survey done recently within the school community regarding contact tracing and close contact quarantine procedures. The survey revealed that the large majority of parents and staff were in favor of making the proposed change. The district administration then followed through and eliminated contact tracing and close contact quarantining in the schools. One can conclude that the voices of the parents, along with the active TakeBackTeam members, made a considerable impact. We believe that the persistent communication to the board members through emails and speaking up at school board meetings most definitely helped accomplish this change.

We can chalk this up as a small victory, but there are still many significant issues to be addressed. We

must stay on top of what is happening in our schools and community, be present at school board meetings, and continue speaking up.

We live in a country where people have long fought to have their voices heard. And now, we must protect our right to speak and to vote by purposefully choosing leaders who will represent us accurately so that we may continue to have a say in these incredibly important issues which affect our children, our community, and our country.

1. <https://www.rhinelander.k12.wi.us/district/covid-19.cfm>

Call To Action!

Since we are glad to see the contact tracing and close contact quarantine policies ending and because we want to promote a positive relationship with the school administration in the hope of having continued influence in policy creation, please consider writing a letter of gratitude or sending a phone message to Superintendent Burke for his consideration of public opinion in this positive policy change. His contact information is: burkeeri@rhinelander.k12.wi.us 715-365-9750.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

