



COTOPAXI CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

Fremont County School District RE-3

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Mrs. Danielle Van Esselstine - Superintendent

Mr. Ken Eckelberry - Principal

June 12, 2020

Hello again everyone,

Conversation with the Superintendent: Thank you to those of you that were able to join our 'Conversation with the Superintendent' Zoom Meeting and first Town Hall Virtual Meeting last evening. I know it is summer break so many of you were unable to attend but I hope to see you and connect with you soon! I am very excited and interested in what you have to say and would like to have an ongoing discussion with you about our school, our community and the issues that mean the most to all of us. I hope that you will join me at next month's 'Conversation with the Superintendent'. I will send out an announcement with the Zoom link, time and date for our next 'Conversation with the Superintendent'. **Remember this is an open forum where you will have the opportunity to speak to me directly and ask me questions in a less formal way than a Board Meeting and get your questions and comments answered.**

Governor Polis, Commissioner Anthes and Senator Bennet Updates: Exciting conversations were held since last week's community letter so I wanted to highlight just a few items:

- **Return to in person instruction in the Fall:** Governor Polis and his team are expecting a return to school in the Fall and announced some exciting news.
- **Cohort Management:** Of course, all plans are subject to change, but for now the Governor's plan to return to school in the fall will focus on 'Cohort Management' and 'Cohort Prevention'. Cohorts means, for example, 3rd graders will stay together for the entire day and not interact with other groups of students so that if a number of them develop COVID systems (how many kids have not been defined by the state yet), they would be able to be quarantine in a small group a.k.a cohort group and they would stay home versus the entire school closing. By keeping cohorts together, it will be easier to identify and manage the school district if/when an outbreak occurs. In the event that a cohort did have an outbreak of COVID symptoms, only that cohort may be required to move to remote/live feed/blended learning formats for a short period and then return to campus. All other cohorts would remain in the building with in-person instruction.
- **What is an outbreak?:** The exact measurement of what is identified as an 'outbreak' has not been defined yet.
- **6foot Rule and Occupancy Requirement:** The state is expecting normal class sizes to occur and understand that the 6foot social distancing requirement is not feasible. They also are not anticipating any occupancy restrictions for school districts in the Fall.
- **Masks:** Wearing masks at school will be encourage, however, the Governor highlighted that expecting all students to wear a mask is unrealistic. However, he *stressed* the importance of school district staff and teachers to prepare appropriate measures to ensure that no bullying behavior should be directed towards those students choosing to wear a mask.
- **Cleaning and Disinfection:** Cleaning and disinfection processes will occur with more frequency when we return to campus as well as medical screening, documentation and guidelines.
- **Transportation:** Bus transportation guidelines will continue to evolve as well. We are anticipating more recommendations to follow in the coming weeks.
- **Daycare and Summer Programs:** Daycare centers have opened to full capacity and summer programs are beginning to occur under specific guidelines. All of which is very exciting for our children, families and staff.
- **Funding shortfalls and Access to High Speed Internet:** Senator Bennet recognizes and is working diligently with his peers to focus on school funding shortfalls that exist and equitable access to high speed internet for our students across the State of Colorado.

Summer Meal Information: We will keep posting this announcement throughout the summer and hope that everyone can take advantage of this valuable resource. Food distributions parked at the Cotopaxi School is available to everyone, so please share and mark your calendar. Additional information can be found on our website and designated links.

- **Fremont Canon City School Food Program:** Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday

- **My Neighbors Pantry:** June 13, 2020 from 10am to 12pm
- **Loaves & Fishes:** June 6th, June 20th, July 11th, and July 25th from 11am to 12pm

Return to School and Class Schedules for Students for Next Fall: We are still encouraging everyone, if you have not done so, to provide your feedback to the Colorado Department of Education and the State on “return to school” feedback. Please share your thoughts by accessing the following link [feedback planning framework](#). Mr. Eckelberry has been and will continue to work with teachers on structures on how to meet the guidelines and expectations established by the Governor, State and medical experts as we prepare for the upcoming 2020-21 school year. Mrs. Christensen, Mr. Brown and Mr. Eckelberry are reviewing and revising the “Master Class Schedule” to ensure that we meet the needs of all our students as well as adhere to state guidelines. We do realize this is a stressful time period yet know that we appreciate your continued patience and support as we maneuver through all the changes. We will continue to provide updates and information about our students’ class schedules for next year as soon as they are finalized.

Water Reclassification: The Colorado School of Mines Capstone design for our water reclassification issues has been completed and we are now ready to move into the next phase of our water reclassification requirements. Today, Jeremy Cole and I submitted our final design to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for the official stamp of approval from their engineers. This process could take up to 2 months. CDPHE and Cotopaxi knew and expected that we would exceed our allotted 18-month compliance window which expires on July 18, 2020. Once this date passes, CDPHE must issue a “Failure to Filtrate Violation” followed by the development of an “Enforcement Order”. After which, CDPHE will work with us on our new timeline and processes to complete the filtration project. Please know that once the violation and enforcement order are received, I must post this at our building as a tier 2 public notice. If you have any questions about this process or the water reclassification issue in general, please do not hesitate to contact either Jeremy Cole at jcole@cotopaxire3.org or myself at dvanesselstine@cotopaxire3.org.

Resources: Our website and Facebook page will continue to be updated over the summer so we do recommend visiting it often. We will continue to push out and post important updates and information when they are available. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at dvanesselstine@cotopaxire3.org or keckelberry@cotopaxire3.org.

Thank you for taking the time to read these announcements and share your thoughts.

Have a wonderful weekend and upcoming week!

Danielle Van Esselstine, Superintendent