



August 15, 2020

Parents and Community Members:

The time is getting closer to the decision being made on how we will be starting school and I thought I'd share a few last thoughts before the final call is made on Monday, August 17th at the regular school board meeting which starts at 5:30 p.m. in the school commons. Society, including every breathing soul, has experienced feelings of anxiety, sadness, anger, frustration, uncertainty, grief, confusion, optimism, even contentment, and a bouncing back and forth with a different intensity level of each feeling. It could almost be considered a perfect storm, as there are so many moving parts and unrest in general to this world-crisis we've entered, and no region in the world has been void of the impact, some more so than others. When will this all end and when will we get back to the normal life we all enjoyed in the past? When will we stop seeing our country so divided and when will all politicians actually work cohesively and collaboratively for the good of all people? A health crisis has turned into a political one, compounded by an election year, which only complicates things for all decision-makers as well. It appears that the division and adversity found throughout the world are headed in a direction that isn't where most of us would like it to be going and that's simply acknowledging our reality.

As a community, the impacts and fallouts from everything happening impact our small, little rural communities greatly. There is an old short saying that reads, "this too shall pass" and we all yearn for that day to be here sooner than later. With that said, the school board members have been diligently preparing by having many conversations, researching credible sources, all while trying to process the impact each option and decision will bring to the students, staff, and community in general. We all can agree that regardless of the decision, there will be people that believe the decision should have been different to some varying degree, and according to the survey results, there is no way to avoid this fact.

Once the decision is made this Monday, we will immediately begin to roll out specific plans informing everyone of the details important to them. We are well prepared for whatever direction we move in, and just like how the information and understanding of COVID-19 changes, so will we be prepared to change, and we expect to change. Like all of you, the Hurley School District staff is human and even though kids think they are superheroes, they too have the same feelings as everyone else. Staff all have unique situations as each family does and processing through the impacts of all the changes can be overwhelming for everyone.

But please know that the dedication to the students of this district will not waver in doing what all employees in the Hurley School District do best, educating and caring for kids. The Hurley School District staff will be up for the challenge and truly look forward to the time of returning to the sounds of giggling throughout the hallways and seeing smiles filling the school from end to end. Starting the school year always brings apprehensiveness and sleepless nights on a typical year and this year will be no different. Will it be easy? No, it never is and parents can attest to some of the challenges of educating kids, especially since they became educators themselves beginning this past March. Good things are rarely easy or come without hard work and that's where the passion and dedication to helping all children succeed kicks in and the Hurley staff is ready and willing to continue doing whatever they can to make things work. When the partnership between the parents and staff remains strong, great things happen. We are all fully committed and ready for any and all challenges!

Speaking of challenges, I would like to challenge everyone reading this to post something positive and uplifting as it's time we all focus on the good around us as we all share the desire in looking forward to better days. It's a simple gesture to start a positive trend. If you have had enough reading slanted news, seeing negative postings, and are ready for something different, start it now and repeat it often! Post, email, converse, or simply share something of value that brings hope, acknowledgment, and optimism going forward. That seems to be a rare commodity as of late, but you have the power to positively influence that change! Start now and our community will be better because of your individual actions!

And I will end with the same invitation we always offer, please call any administrator to discuss concerns or solutions about anything of interest to you. We are committed to working diligently to meet the needs of every student and every family regardless of the decision that comes on Monday. My direct number is 715-407-4777 X 258 or email anytime at genisot@hurley.k12.wi.us.

Stay well, stay positive, and stay connected ~ we shall achieve greatness by working together!

Sincerely, Kevin Genisot