

Poland Regional High School

School Board Report

February 2022

Staff Updates

We have managed to avoid, so far, a large number of teacher absences due to COVID. While we had a couple of weeks with over 10 staff absences, the absences have been among ed techs, food service, teachers and other staff members. This has allowed us to continue with school in a normal fashion.

We have been able to fill the Student Services Aide position left vacant earlier in the year with the resignation of Rikki Lukeski. Rhonda Lausier, who has been working in our building supporting an individual student, while employed by an outside agency, has stepped in to assist us with a range of student supervision tasks that has been a great help. Her primary areas of focus will be to make sure students are in class consistently and work with students who are removed from class for disciplinary reasons.

Teaching and Learning

January 21st was the end of the first semester. To help students meet standards to pass classes, we held our second intervention block on Wednesday, January 12th during our early release. A big thanks to Fred in transportation for arranging rides for a group of our students to ensure they were able to take advantage of the extra time and attention to try to pass classes.

The high school staff completed the “Making Student Thinking Visible” course during the month of January (workshop day and early release time). We will continue to set goals with the new strategies and incorporate them into our daily instruction.

We have begun the scheduling process for the 22-23 school year. Students will be working with their Roundtable teachers and counselors to register for classes. Counselors will begin working with 8th graders on March 10th to explain the process and what course choices they have. Hillary Bush and I will begin to build a master schedule on April 1st with the goal of having a draft schedule before April vacation. This work is essential for us to complete so to have a clear sense of staffing and class sizes for the next school year.

Facilities & Safety

We held a vaccination clinic in partnership with Maine Health/Stephen’s Memorial Hospital. Seventy-seven first, second and booster shots were given to middle and high school students, as well as to several staff members. Our follow up clinic will be February 15th.

Events/Activities

Winter Carnival will be postponed until March 25th. Our goal is to run this event as normally as possible and by postponing it, we will be past this Omicron surge that we are experiencing.

Our winter sports teams will be wrapping up their seasons by February vacation. We were able to avoid any disruption to our seasons due to COVID.

8th Grade Parent Night: March 9th