



Joyce Weber <jweber@bwschools.net>

Live with Lutz Summary & Notes

1 message

BWSD Superintendent's Office <rlutz@bwschools.net>
Reply-To: BWSD Superintendent's Office <rlutz@bwschools.net>
To: jweber@bwschools.net

Fri, Apr 22, 2022 at 3:03 PM

Live with Lutz

4.22.22

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Notes & Summary

Discussion Recap

[Link here for Video Archive of Today's Live with Lutz](#)

[Link here for for Summary Document of Today's Live with Lutz](#)

1. Shout Outs & Positive News

Dr. Lutz shared that the South Hills Area School District Association (SHASDA) will resume its annual conference tomorrow, April 23, for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. The gathering brings together 25 districts from southern Allegheny and Washington counties who are each able to recognize two students who have overcome obstacles to achieve their goals and reach graduation. Our guest speaker tomorrow will be former Pittsburgh Steeler, Mr. Charlie Batch, now of the Batch Foundation and our own Mrs. Karen Brown who is the president of SHASDA. Additionally, our District photographer Mr. Bob Marlow will be providing photography services.

We were privileged to welcome a group of 25 visiting non-public school students from Catholic schools and other learning environments on Thursday, April 14 to tour, explore, and

meet with our administration. Dr. Lutz offered special thanks to the Baldwin High School team for hosting these students and organizing a special day for them.

2. Covid in Our Schools Update

Case counts are very low at the school, community, county, and state levels. It is heartening to see these numbers get smaller and smaller and we hope that we are currently transitioning from pandemic to endemic.

We are tracking only 2 student cases at Baldwin High School and 1 student case at McAnnulty Elementary and 2 staff cases at this time.

Masking in our schools continues to be based on personal preference, we note that approximately 30% of students wish to wear masks. We have obtained a free shipment of KN95 masks which are now available for those who are interested in using them.

Our schools are experiencing the gradual return to near normal spacing levels. All the while, we are taking time to be respectful of differing opinions and respecting the personal space and personal understanding of one another.

The Allegheny County Covid-19 dashboard is available [here](#) for more information.

3. Comprehensive Plan Update

We have recently hosted planned meetings at each of our school buildings to gather insights and feedback from students at every grade level to ensure that student focus and student needs are guiding our work.

Our next meeting for the Comprehensive Plan will take place on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the LGI Room at Baldwin High School. We will discuss insights from student discussions and begin goal-setting. We will begin focused discussion around student growth, student achievement, school culture, workforce development, and more.

4. Construction Around BWSD

At this time, construction is on schedule for Lutz Elementary. While we are dealing with some construction material setbacks such as delays on the arrival of steel materials, a tremendous amount of work is happening underground with stormwater management systems underway and significant progress on the rear-facing wall for the future building. [Click here](#) for a quick glimpse of the construction area.

The Whitehall project is well underway with planning for a new play area in the rear and front of the school building with a rubberized surface with security fencing around the perimeter to increase our security measures. These plans also include improvements in parent pick-up

procedures and separate our pick-up procedures from bus lines. We are also finally realizing our plans for new pavement of drives and parking lots that can now become underway at a lower cost and more easily aligned into our other improvement projects.

Our McAnnulty Project is also coming together with plans for a second playground, security fencing, rubberized play surface, and a repaving of the current parking lot.

At Baldwin High School, plans are underway for new tennis courts and renovations to our high school stadium locker rooms to increase privacy and interior facilities, and new epoxy-based waterproof flooring.

Much of our existing facilities renovations are made possible through ESSER funding.

5. The BW Pop-Up Shop

The District is pleased to offer a new service in its first-ever BW Pop-Up Shop featuring free personal care items (toiletries, shampoo/conditioner, toothbrushes/toothpaste, baby diapers, etc.), and our featured item for this shop is prom attire and professional attire for men and women.

The mobile BW Pop-Up Shop will hit the road for the first time on Wednesday, April 27 from 4:00-6:00 pm at SHIM - Wallace School parking lot. The Pop-Up Shop is open to our entire community - everything is free for visitors to take what they need with no questions asked. Dr. Lutz thanks Dr. Kara Eckert the Pop-Up Shop Team for her leadership in creating this meaningful initiative.

6. Save the Date - Thursday, May 26 - We Are Neighbors

The District will host a special community engagement event on Thursday, May 26 from 6:00-8:00pm at BHS central lot. Inspired by the vision of Mr. Fred Rogers who said, "Neighbors are people who are close to us, and friends are people who are close to our hearts. I like to think of you as my neighbor and my friend."

The Baldwin-Whitehall School District will bring the community together to feature educational experiences and activities for the entire family to enjoy. With a focus on our neighbors coming together, we will offer a variety of food trucks, hands-on maker activities for the whole family, entertainment, games, and time to connect with each other to appreciate who we are as a district and community. We hope to see you there!

7. Save the Date: The Eileen Kline Community Walk - May 21, 2022

All are encouraged to participate in the first-ever Eileen Kline Community Walk at Baldwin High School Stadium on May 21, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. with start time at 10:00 a.m. The event will feature a variety of activities such as refreshments, jump rope and hula hoop contests.

Donations and proceeds will benefit the American Heart Association, a passion of the late Eileen Kline, a beloved and deeply missed member of the BWSD Family. Nurse Kline loved walking, especially with family and friends and was a devoted advocate of the AHA, so we are incredibly pleased to host an event so closely aligned with her legacy. Details are available by clicking [here](#) and all are encouraged to attend.

8. The Baldwin-Whitehall Wellness Committee

The District will reinstate its Wellness Committee with a virtual on May 2, 2022 from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. If you'd like to be part of the effort, we welcome teachers, staff, families and students to please contact Jennifer Lashley at plashley@bwschools.net if you have an interest in becoming a member of the Baldwin-Whitehall School District Wellness Committee. Members will receive a link to join the meeting after responding to the invitation.

9. PSSA Testing

It's time again for PSSA Testing which begins on Monday, April 25th for all students in Grades 3-8.

English Language Arts (ELA) PSSA assessments from Monday, April 25th through Wednesday, April 27th.

Math PSSA testing takes place on Monday and Tuesday, May 2nd and 3rd.

Additionally, students in Grades 4 & 8 will participate in the science PSSA assessments on Wednesday and Thursday, May 4th and 5th.

Electronic devices, including smart watches and cell phones, are prohibited from the testing sites. Teachers are working to ensure protocols are in place to avoid these becoming a problem, but we ask for support in mitigating the interference of electronic devices during testing which can result in District ramifications including nullifying test results.

10. BHS News: Inaugural Keystone Space Consortium at the Carnegie Science Center

Mr. Tomaszewski took four students to the inaugural Keystone Space Consortium conference at the Carnegie Science Center this week. Our students had the opportunity to work and learn with folks interested in the aerospace industry from around the country, including Governor Wolf, NASA Administrator Bill Nelson, and professors from CMU, Pitt, OSU, and Penn State. Our District's students were the only high school students invited to attend this conference, and we're certain that they learned a lot and consider this a prestigious honor to be selected.

11. Questions and Answers

Q. Can something be done about the time that the pick up lines start forming at Whitehall Elementary School. I've had to pick my WES student up a little early for doctor's appointments (between 2:30-2:45) and I've parked in the visitor spots. While I'm in the building, the pick up line has formed behind me, and there's no way for me to get out of the lot except by going out the wrong way. It is unacceptable that the line forms an hour before dismissal. At HEC, it's the same thing. I had to pick my son up early and the line starts an hour prior. There is a lower lot at HEC. Why are these folks not instructed to form their line down there and NOT in the front of the building entrance? There was no parking, and once again I had to do something illegal and park in a handicapped spot. If a teacher needed to leave for an emergency situation, the line completely blocks the faculty lot as well. I get there are always extenuating circumstances, but an hour prior to dismissal when there are folks that need in and out of the school quickly is absolutely unacceptable."

A. We agree that this has been a challenge for numerous years. This question not only addresses issues of inconvenience, but also real safety issues. We don't have a quick answer but know that we are working on this with our police departments.

Q. I may have missed a recent update, but I'm curious how the new school construction is coming along and if it's still targeted to open in Fall 2023. Thanks!

A. While there are some weather related and supply chain issues, we are assured that we remain on schedule for opening Fall 2023.

Q. Graduation is fast approaching. Has there been anything released letting (first time) parents know how many seats/tickets we will be allowed per family. Apologies if this is posted somewhere, I could not find anything on graduation.

A. We are meeting Tuesday to discuss full details for Commencement for the Class of 2022 and fully expect details to be released to families shortly. It is our hope to host our graduation ceremony outside at BHS Stadium and that the ceremony will be free of Covid-19 restrictions and take place with unlimited attendance available.

Q. Can more student parking be added at the high school? Student parking on residential streets has been increasing over the past few years, causing inconvenience and other issues. Residents should not have to tolerate this.

A. We are not planning to add additional parking at BHS, which is an age-old issue, but believe that with redistribution of students in 7th and 8th grade, and the staff associated with

these grades, related to future plans, some of these problems may be reduced.

Q. Will HEC be returning to normal cafeteria seating as the other elementary schools did? There are classrooms including a special education classroom in the cafeteria. This does not seem conducive to learning. How are the challenges of the limited space of HEC being met for next year?

A. The building principal and facilities team continue to evaluate these measures and will roll out plans when they are ready to do so at a time that's considered best for students to adapt. We are not hearing complaints about noise in nearby classrooms and also know that once the redistribution of students occurs next fall will help to pave the way for improvements at HEC.

Parting Expression & Reminder

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." – Jane Goodall, English primatologist and anthropologist.

Please be safe.

Please be kind.

Please show grace.

NEXT LIVESTREAM UPDATE:

Our next Live with Lutz will take place on Friday, April 29, 2022 at 9:05 a.m.

For more information, please visit bwschools.net.

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