



Union Community School District

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#UKnighted

“Education to Meet Tomorrow’s Challenges”

Greetings from the Union Community School District. I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the holiday season. We truly have a lot to be thankful for in the district. Please find below the stakeholder communication for December 2023.

Board of Education

With the board election last month, we had three individuals retain their seats– Corey Lorenzen, Brandon Paine and Ben Schemmel. We had one newly elected board member– Carly McGivern. I want to personally thank Jenna Scott for devoting multiple years to the board. Her never-ending commitment and enthusiasm for the district made a lasting impact. Corey and Ben were voted president and vice-president respectively at the November 2023 meeting.

District Assessment

In last month’s newsletter, I mentioned the results of the district assessment survey. The survey results from parents/guardians/stakeholders indicated the following strengths: Communication, Extra-Curricular opportunities, Information provided for individual students, Positive impact of the Board of Education, and Retention of quality staff. The areas in need of improvement indicated by parents/guardians/stakeholders were: Improving our climate and culture, Meeting the needs of all students, Parent involvement in decision-making, and Preparing students for life after high school. The full report will be on the district website soon. Again, thank you to all who participated in the survey. With this information/input, we can continue to improve our district.

School Calendar 2024-2025

The district calendar committee, composed of staff at all buildings, meets for the first time this month to begin formulating the calendar for 2024-2025. The goal is to have an option for the board of education to approve at the February board meeting. If you, as a stakeholder of the Union Community School District, have suggestions/thoughts for the committee, please e-mail me at j_howard@union.k12.ia.us. We would welcome your input.

Volunteers Needed– Speech Contest

Union High School has been honored with the opportunity to host the District Large Group Speech Contest this year! The District Large Group Contest will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2024. We are in need of volunteers (roughly 20 adults) for room chairs, time keepers, and additional tasks that may be needed at the contest (runners, concession, judges lunch, etc.). As UCSD community members, you know how important it is to run the best contest possible. In order to make that happen we need your help. You can volunteer to work a half-day or a full-day. We give everyone instructions on the area they are assigned to so there is no need to worry about prior knowledge or experience. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stephania Sauer at 319-342-2697 or email s_sauer@union.k12.ia.us.

Winter Weather Decisions

Winter will soon be here. With this fact, I wanted to (once again) communicate some aspects of our decision-making process. Our goal is to make a decision between 5:30 a.m./5:45 a.m. and communicate it out. Our communication methods have not changed. We will send something on JMC, alert the appropriate radio and television stations, post on Facebook and Twitter, etc. Please understand that we

could first communicate a two-hour late start and then cancel school due to worsening conditions. There could also be times that we make the decision the night before due to the forecasted weather. If school is late or canceled, we could still have a night activity, depending on the weather. If we have to dismiss school early, due to inclement weather, we will communicate that decision through the same means. No contests, open gyms, practices, rehearsals, scrimmages, etc. are to be held in these instances. Please know our #1 priority is student and staff safety.

Winter Activities

The winter activity season has started off very well. I am so appreciative of our extra-curricular participants and coaches/sponsors. They continually represent themselves, our schools, and our district well. I also, once again, want to thank all the volunteers who help with any of the winter events. Without these tremendous individuals, the concerts, games, and meets would not be possible.

Future No School/Early Out Days

No School- December 22- January 2.

No School- January 15

Early Dismissal- January 24

Happy Holidays

On behalf of the students and staff of the Union Community School District, I want to wish everyone a Happy Holidays!

Thank you for your continued support of our district. Go Knights!

John Howard, Superintendent