Questions from school board members to Superintendent Davis:

How are we providing tiered support during eLearning?
One of the benefits of eLearning occurring during 4th quarter is that teachers have already identified which level of support students need in order to succeed in their classes. While teachers understand what it takes to reach these needs in the classroom, the next phase will be to reach each of the students’ needs as an eLearner. Our Elementary Specialists are creating scaffolded materials for students who need additional remediation.

What is the status of graduation commencements for 2020? We are currently continuing the originally scheduled graduation plans. Our staff has been meeting to discuss potential alternative scenarios in the event we should need them.

Updates on Grab-and-Go Meals
We have 150 routes delivering meals within our community (this is in addition to the 147 sites where Grab-and-Go Meals are offered). Using free and reduced lunch data to create a “heat map” to determine needs for these delivery routes, we served 50,000 meals on Monday.

We are adjusting routes on a daily basis to make sure we are getting food to as many students as possible. To make the process even easier for parents, we will begin giving food to parents even if the student is not present at the time. If we do not have the amount of food necessary to fulfill delivery in a particular area, we will be bringing more food or even have a second delivery.

With regards to Technology…
Superintendent Davis wants to explore options such as Microsoft, Google and Canvas to improve our IT infrastructure. Synergy will be used for grade book and student information system beginning next school year.

How are we helping families with special needs?
The eLearning Contingency Plan has a notebook to assist our ESE personnel. It addresses inclusive practices and behavior supports. We also have ongoing and in-depth professional learning within the eLearning Contingently Plan. Our families can also reach out to their schools if they feel they need more assistance at this time.

Without state testing, how are our students being held accountable for their academics?
4th quarter grades will factor into our students’ Grade Point Average (GPA). For our seniors, their GPA determines graduation status and impacts post-secondary admission and scholarships. For younger grade levels, this will factor into placement for next school year.

How are we maintaining equity while addressing student grades during eLearning?
We have asked teachers to be mindful and flexible with deadlines. Many students are sharing devices at home with siblings or have barriers preventing them from completing work on time. Our district leadership must work with teachers to adequately explain the situation some of our learners are in.

What is the latest on Semester Exams?
We previously announced that there will be NO state administered exams this year. Additionally, we will NOT conduct district-created semester exams.
What was the thought process behind device distribution?
Each school created a plan that would benefit their students the most. We recommended to provide devices to seniors, 8th graders, 5th graders and students with disabilities first. We initially offered one device per family to ensure accessibility for their family. This also allowed us to provide a device to as many family as possible.

We created a tracker to identify how many devices each school had and what their needs were. As of now, 32,000 devices have been distributed to families and have ordered another 42,000 devices. Once we have assigned a device to each family in need, we will begin to address families that would like more than one device.

What are alternatives to eLearning?
If interested, parents can contact their principal if they choose printed packets instead of completing eLearning. School principals will connect with teachers to create a consistent schedule and to define expectations of completing this material.

What is the expectation for attendance during eLearning?
Teachers should not set specific times for daily attendance. Students may be struggling to have access to their device or may even be completing the paper packets instead of participating in eLearning. As long as we see WEEKLY progress within their work, count the student present for the week. Teachers should reach out to families if students are NOT completing work or participating in your course expectations (such as scheduled Zoom meetings). Social Workers can assist teachers connecting to families as there may be needs students are uncomfortable sharing with their teacher.