

FAQs in response to GSD Staff Feedback

How can mentor teachers help?

The district does have several first and second year teachers who are benefitting from additional supports and coaching. The district has hired mentor teachers before COVID-19 to support our first and second year teachers.

Substitutes in all areas should be a priority. What can we do?

The district authorized use of funds to hire permanent subs for this year to fill in as needed. We have also added staff as temporary hires to help with coverage during this year. The district is working with EduStaff to make sure the subs listed in the system actually want to work and are available. We have also implemented a “bonus” system for subs who take jobs in our district being awarded for every “5th day of subbing” for us. This begins on Monday, October 25th.

Is money being used for tutoring opportunities?

Yes, we have online tutoring available again every Tuesday and Thursday night. We will add more nights as necessary. The district is willing to pay for after school tutoring assistance and programs as each school implements their systems.

There were various comments about technology, software, school supplies, etc.

If you have concerns about your equipment or it doesn't work properly (this includes laptops, desk tops, copiers, etc.) or you need additional equipment for STEAM activities (that is just an example) please communicate that directly to your building principal. If you are concerned about a lack of school supplies for students, please let your office manager know. We have plenty of school supplies and if we are lacking something, we can purchase them. There is money to address all of these issues.

Parent Trainings , opportunities for community centered topics such as parenting, English classes, library activities--what are the opportunities?

While the district understands there is a great need, having the time and the employee power to provide these additional opportunities really limited at this time and the ESSER III funds are to support student learning. Hopefully, as the year progresses, we will be able to create a schedule to assist parents.

Opportunities for clubs (not recreation), afterschool transportation—more money should be spent or available for both new and existing ones.

The district, especially at the elementary school, has multiple after-school clubs for students. If you currently advise a club and need some additional “things” please let your building principal know and we will see what we are able to provide. If there are student desires for new clubs, then those students should follow whatever process your building has for starting a new club. We do offer transportation for students involved in after school programs. Due to the nature of athletics and ever changing practices times and schedules, it's not possible to offer a bus for those students.

Tents—The high school needs one, why are we using tents instead of another option?

The high school admin team feels that once the middle school tent is in place, that will help solve issues with timing, cleaning, etc. Additionally, there is limited space to even place a tent for high school use. In terms of other options, it's not feasible to place another temporary building in any one location to address this need based on the short term necessity. If anyone has any other ideas, those would be welcomed!

What is a timecard system and why is it needed?

Currently the business office and your school office manager spend an unreasonable amount of time double checking paperwork. An electronic system would allow individuals to log, submit and then have reviews /corrections and approvals completed immediately. Moving paper back and forth is wasting valuable time and also creates more opportunities for mistakes.

Why can't we add classrooms, bulletin boards, and improve other spaces with this money?

Twenty percent of the money must be dedicated to supporting students over the course of the next three years. Since the district may also go for a bond in May, spending current funds on items that may just be ripped out next summer or the following school year, is not a good use of dollars. However, if there is an issue that is preventing you from doing your job or preventing students from learning, please let your building principal know.

We need to address the learning loss and improve student achievement.

Yes, those are definitely priorities. Our districtwide work in identifying essential standards, creating a committee in the winter to review assessment tools, and use of PLCs to identify who is not learning and needs additional instruction is important. However, we also need to keep in mind many students may not make a quick recovery from their learning loss and at this point, just getting back into learning routines and re-creating systems is important. If you have ideas for getting deficient students caught up, please bring them to your administrator now while we're early in the school year. We will be making plans for another robust summer school, but the more we can address deficiencies now the better. The administrative team and building PLCs will continue to monitor student academic data to determine what needs continue to be and how to best address them.