Report to our Community
2020-2021
#UnifiedTogether
Dear RUSD family,

What a year it has been! When we look back on 2020, what will stick with us? It is my hope that what many of us will remember is the kindness, unity and generosity of spirit displayed by students, families, colleagues, friends and neighbors. I know that I will remember with pride the work of our RUSD educators and staff. Though schools were shut down, learning never stopped. Our dedicated, compassionate and hardworking staff rose to the challenge. They stood outside in the freezing March mornings packaging meals and distributing them to students and families. They drove homework packets and technology to doorsteps. They made personal phone calls and helped troubleshoot internet access issues. They provided support and guidance when hope was hard to find. They learned how to teach online and engage students virtually. They cleaned and disinfected and found ways to connect while six feet apart.

This annual report highlights a year of challenge, a year of change and a year of discovering ways to come together to keep moving forward despite the circumstances. I’m proud of all we’ve accomplished. Thank you RUSD staff, students, families and community. We are #UnifiedTogether.

Dr. Eric Gallien
Superintendent of Schools

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Stepping Up in a Crisis

Curbside Meal Pickups

Hundreds of RUSD employees volunteered alongside our Aramark Food Service partners to distribute meals to Racine families at sites across the District. Between March 2020 and March 2021, RUSD provided more than 1.1 million meals.

Home Visits

The COVID-19 pandemic forced schools to close, but it did not stop educators from connecting with students and families! School staff made hundreds of home visits (with safety protocols in place) to provide technology, educational materials and just to connect and make sure students stayed on track!

Facilities & Maintenance

Schools were closed, but facilities and maintenance staff worked harder than ever to implement safety measures including installing hand sanitizer dispensers in every classroom and building entrance, rearranging classrooms for physical distancing, disinfecting nightly and increasing air exchanges in all buildings. While schools were closed, this team also completed 11,639 work orders to improve our schools for student and staff return!

School Nurses

With the health and safety of our students and staff members being the top priority during the pandemic, our school nurses and health professionals led the essential development and implementation of COVID-19 safety guidelines and protocol. They stepped up to provide training to RUSD employees, students and families, worked closely with the health departments to do contact tracing and also gave 600 flu vaccines during RUSD drive-up flu clinics.

Encore! Awards in Education

In July, RUSD honored 78 amazing educators and support staff with Encore! Awards. Since the annual awards banquet was canceled, District staff coordinated a drive-thru awards ceremony complete with a photo op and a to-go brunch for each winner.

Canned Food Wars

RUSD high school students joined forces to compete against one another in a physically distanced and safe canned food wars event. Together, they collected 11,695 pounds of food for the Hospitality Center of Racine.

First Day Back In Person

After nearly one year and a tremendous amount of planning and preparation, RUSD welcomed students back with great excitement for in-person learning on Monday, March 1.

1:1 Technology

RUSD is now a 1:1 technology district:
- 12,000 Chromebooks for students grades 3-12
- 4,357 tablets for our youngest students
- 11,000 headphones provided to students
- 500 mobile hotspots purchased for families
- 526 families provided with Spectrum internet
- 8,073 tech support calls received/ serviced
- 846 teachers earned Google Certification

2020 graduation looked very different, but was no less momentous! Each RUSD high school coordinated a safe and physically distanced graduation ceremony.
Family & Community Engagement

RUSD’s Office of Family & Community Engagement is committed to raising student success through intentional and robust partnerships with parents and families. Research studies have pointed out evidence demonstrating that family engagement is one of the strongest predictors of overall student success. Efforts that are collaborative, linked to learning, and build respectful and trusting relationships are proven to produce positive outcomes on children adapting well to school, attending regularly and earning better grades.

During the shutdown the Family Resource Center has served students and families by providing:
- At-home learning materials
- Grade-leveled books
- Math and literacy-focused resource folders
- A variety of Family Bonding Drive-In Movie Night events included:
  - Serving 160 families with holiday gift baskets
  - RUSD Read to Achieve video library
  - Family Bonding Drive-In Movie Night

Amidst the school shutdown, Parent Leadership Network (PLN) has continued to actively work to form strong home and school partnerships to support school and student success! This year PLN developed a new Facebook page (@RUSDPLN), newsletter and held monthly meetings to keep parent leaders engaged with District initiatives as well as gather input and feedback to inform District efforts and actions.

For more information about the programs above, visit our Family & Community Engagement pages at rUSD.org/FACE

The Cost of COVID

RUSD experienced a number of fiscal impacts due to operational changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The disruption of operations impacted revenues, expenses and program operations.

Revenue Impacts
The COVID-19 pandemic contributed to more than $1.9 million in revenue reductions for RUSD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Reductions</th>
<th>District Funding</th>
<th>Federal ESSER &amp; GEER Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lost building rental revenues</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in federal Medicaid revenues related to services provided to special education students</td>
<td>$1 million</td>
<td>$1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue Reductions</td>
<td>$1.9 million</td>
<td>$1.9 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Savings Impacts
The District did experience some cost savings stemming from the remote learning structure for students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Savings</th>
<th>District Funding</th>
<th>Federal ESSER II Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substitute teacher costs</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary furloughs of eligible staff</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department and school budget reductions</td>
<td>$1 million</td>
<td>$1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Savings</td>
<td>$2.1 million</td>
<td>$2.1 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenses Impacts
The COVID-19 pandemic required the District to expend funds to meet the instructional needs of students in both a remote and classroom learning environment. Additional costs were also incurred as the District implemented protocols to create safe and physically distanced school environments. District and federal CARES Act funds were utilized to cover new expenses in response to the pandemic. Expense impacts are outlined in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Impact Area</th>
<th>District Funding</th>
<th>Federal ESSER II Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pupil Support Staff</td>
<td>$1,600,000</td>
<td>$1,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional &amp; Unions</td>
<td>$580,000</td>
<td>$580,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational Supplies &amp; Costs (Building Sanitizing)</td>
<td>$524,519</td>
<td>$524,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Community Services</td>
<td>$87,097</td>
<td>$87,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$276,964</td>
<td>$276,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Curriculum, Online Learning &amp; Instructional Supplies</td>
<td>$34,678</td>
<td>$34,678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Chromebooks for Remote Learning</td>
<td>$1,056,220</td>
<td>$1,056,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Chromebooks for Face-to-Face Learning</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom Technology</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>$1,593,081</td>
<td>$1,593,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Training</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Enrollment Tuition Costs</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Internet Access</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Protection (Masks &amp; Shields for Staff &amp; Students)</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Protection (Masks &amp; Shields for Staff &amp; Students)</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Savings</td>
<td>$14,437,220</td>
<td>$14,437,220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RUSD received an allocation of $5,883,184 in federal ESSER II funds and $2,540,433 from the Governor Emergency Relief Fund (GEER). Of this $8.4 million in federal CARES Act funding, RUSD must allocate $1.4 million for use by private schools in the area. In addition, RUSD will receive an additional $23.6 million of federal ESSER II funding which can be used by the District for eligible expenses through September of 2023. The District is developing plans to utilize the ESSER II funding for learning recovery initiatives, including robust summer school offerings.

How Each Dollar is Spent

School Based

- 52¢ Instructional & Unions
- 32¢ Curriculum, Instructional Materials
- 12¢ Instructional Technology

Business & Operations

- 32¢ Student Transportation
- 12¢ School Maintenance & Improvements
- 4¢ Food & Community Service Programs

Vouchers, Contract Staff & Open Enrollment

- 12¢ School vouchers redirect public education funds for tuition to private schools
- 4¢ District is required by law to pay a certain amount of money per enrolled student to another district

Administration

- 4¢ School Building Administration
- 4¢ AGC Administration
Aquatic Center Update
Making waves this Fall!

Just a few months from now the RUSD Aquatic Center will be complete and ready to welcome student-athletes as well as community members of all ages. The Aquatic Center broke ground on September 2, 2020 and is projected to be completed in the fall of 2021. Once open, the Aquatic Center will serve as a state-of-the-art competitive venue for RUSD student-athletes and will also be open to the entire community for swim lessons, water safety courses, fitness classes, water-training courses, open swim, swim club and other events.

What are the Next Steps?

Research has shown there is a direct correlation between learning environments and student performance. Creating comfortable, functional and efficient facilities is critical to long-term success, and redirects resources to educating students.

In 2019, RUSD conducted a thorough review of our facilities—including school grounds, buildings, communication systems, mechanical systems and emergency power. This data and information was used to analyze the physical condition and operational costs of our existing facilities to determine what can be repaired or renovated affordably and what needed to be replaced. All of this information was utilized to develop a long-range facilities master plan which will allow RUSD to:

- Reduce and standardize the size of our middle schools,
- Expand schools (and programs) in areas of the community that are growing,
- Right-size schools in areas of the community that have seen reductions in school-aged children,
- Continue to address safety and security at our schools,
- Create 21st-century learning environments that accommodate the latest technology; and
- Expand STEM/STEAM programming and continue to grow and expand the Academies of Racine.

In 2016, RUSD voters made certain their voices were heard, passing the RUSD referendum by a narrow margin. We are grateful for the support of this funding measure that will allow RUSD to implement a long-range facilities master plan that moves our entire District into the future with new schools, enhanced technology and excellent learning environments for all students.

In April 2020, amid a state-wide pandemic shutdown, Racine voters made certain their voices were heard, passing the RUSD referendum by a narrow margin. We are grateful for the support of this funding measure that will allow RUSD to implement a long-range facilities master plan that moves our entire District into the future with new schools, enhanced technology and excellent learning environments for all students.

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The Facilities Advisory Council (FAC) is comprised of community representatives, students, parents and staff who develop facility planning recommendations for the District. The FAC analyzes, discusses, evaluates and offers its advice to the Board of Education regarding the scoping, programming, scheduling, budgeting, prioritization and allocation of resources for the implementation of the long-range facility master plan.

Virtual meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month from 5-6:30 p.m. Contact info@rusd.org for more information.

The first phase projects that are part of the new referendum include:

- Demolition of the former Franklin school to make way for a new STEAM elementary school.
- Following the 2020-2021 school year, demolition of Giese Elementary to be the location of a new middle school.
- Renovation and expansion of Jerstad-Agerholm K-8 school.
- A new southwest K-8 school.
- Renovation and expansion of Starbuck IB Middle School to be a K-8 International Baccalaureate School.

Bring Your Voice to the Table

You can get involved in the work by joining the Facilities Advisory Council.

Note: Every 10 cents on the property tax levy equals $10 on a $100,000 home.

What are the Next Steps?

We continue to honor our commitment to keep the tax levy flat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tax Levy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>$10.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-20</td>
<td>$9.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020-21</td>
<td>$9.49</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

© Mark Hertzberg
In 2016, RUSD transformed its high schools into the Academies of Racine. The Academies are designed to ensure students are better prepared for college and the regional workforce. In changing the curriculum, developing small learning communities and better connecting with local businesses and organizations, the Academies help students graduate with a plan. Within the Academies are specific Pathways, such as Culinary Arts, Engineering, Marketing, Automotive Technology, Construction and other specialty areas based on high-demand careers.

The Academies of Racine celebrated its very first graduating class in 2020 amidst a worldwide pandemic. Though their senior year didn’t end the way they planned, these students benefited from the amazing hands-on, real-world learning experiences the Academies of Racine at Case, Horlick and Park High Schools offer.

“Growing up I kind of had a lot of ideas of what I wanted to be, but when I heard about the Academies I started to focus on what I was good at and what skills I had and I knew I had to go with the Engineering pathway. The cool part about it was I got to learn a little bit about all aspects of engineering. I feel like I have a more well-rounded view of engineering as a whole and am more informed heading into college.”

- Koffi Koudahenou, Case Class of 2020

“When I was a freshman I had no idea what I wanted to be when I grew up, but the Academies really gave me an opportunity to get hands-on interactive experience in a field I might not have thought of before.”

- Sophia Governatori, Horlick Class of 2020

“We did get a lot of opportunities to figure out what interested us,” Ludvigsen said. “Even if you walked in not having a clue, you were able to weed out what you liked and didn’t like and that helped make your choice.”

- Drake Ludvigsen, Park class of 2020
#UnifiedTogether

RUSD offers state-recognized early learning programs!

Enroll now for 3- and 4-year-old kindergarten for 2021-2022

www.rusd.org/enroll • (262) 664-8201