

## House Ed Testimony Notes 1/13/21

### Broadband Access

- 5 families (out of nearly 300) with no access whatsoever
- 30% families with subpar access (DSL)
  - Strain on resources with multiple children/parents working from home
- No Cellular service in much of our region - and therefore no boosters, hotspots etc
  - Rural, lack of density, topographical challenges

### Building Issues

- 50+ year old building with lots of deferred maintenance
- School board voted to stay fully remote until air flow testing was completed
- Much repair required first; testing being done end of January
- Anticipated opening on Feb 8th
  - 6th grade will be 4 days; 7-12 will be cohort hybrid of 2 days on/3 days remote
  - Separate Remote Academy developed for families who chose that option

### Fully Remote

- Lack of engagement from all students (some due to internet, some due to lack of interest)
- Slow decline over time of engagement
- 7 drop outs this fall (out of HS population of 180)
  - Family challenges - all in poverty, all have jobs (need?), all were students who struggled before
- Home visits have been used as tool to re-engage (over 100 this fall)

### Staffing Challenges

- Last minute retirements in June
- One midyear resignation (just found out two days ago)
- No subs on sub list for when we reopen
- Much staff consternation about vaccine delays
  - Ski patrol? Mental health workers who work remote?

### Academic Gaps

- Curriculum had to be significantly pared down to start
- Challenges to doing benchmarking while remote to get accurate data
- Plans for summer remediation; fall program to bring back drop-outs

### Poverty Impact

- Our community is nearly 50% poverty rate
- Home visits have lead to significant action around holidays specifically with gift giving, book program for elementary school students, and financial support from local churches and the Stratton Foundation