

Finance, Facilities, and Operations

Goal #6: Update and systemize operational functions including student information management, facilities and transportation requests, and elementary HVAC systems.

What Went Well

- a. **Student Information System** – We transitioned from MMS to Focus as our Student Information System (SIS). Focus has more features and a more intuitive user interface than MMS.
- b. **School Dude**- We continue to utilize School Dude for maintenance requests.
- c. **Facilities Use Scheduling**: We are transitioning from paper facilities use request forms to utilizing MS Schedules to streamline the facilities use request process.
- d. **HVAC Systems**: In Summer 2020, we completed the transition from the Siemens Insight HVAC program to the Siemens Desigo CC HVAC program. The transition to Desigo CC for W.W. Evans Elementary School and Memorial Elementary School has commenced and is projected to be complete in Summer 2021.
- e. **Transportation Systems**: In August 2020, after determining which students would be starting the year in person and which would be starting the year in Bloomsburg Blended, we revamped our bus runs to accommodate the new tiered start/end times at W.W. Evans Elementary School, Memorial Elementary School, and the secondary complex. Additionally, in order to adhere to our health and safety plan, we called all families to establish who needed a seat on the bus, and then proceeded to assign students to buses based on the one-student-per-seat rule. When it became clear that this was not feasible long-term, we changed our busing protocol to permit up to two students to share a seat. The new bus schedules will take effect on November 2.

Limitations

- a. **Student Information System**: While our summer work prioritized starting the development of our health and safety plan and return to school instructional models both in-person and online, we did not receive the in-depth training on the new Focus system for full implementation.
- b. **Elementary HVAC Systems Control**: We are still in process for the completing the elementary building upgrades.

Moving Forward

From an operations perspective, our organization goal is to establish the systems, structures and operating processes to provide for the most effective, efficient, and cost-conscious facilities and operations we can. As much a product of our times as our organizational goals, our work is relying more and more on centralized services and external partnerships to complete job assignments that were once in-house. As we look for explicit clarity and direction across our operations and academic systems, we acknowledge that this sense of concrete planning will come with a loss of flexibility and autonomy. Decisions and conversations that were had in the hallway are now completed through an app or electronic form.

Reflection

The consistent shifting demands between clarity and efficiency with flexibility and autonomy both from an operations and a programing perspective are not exclusive to Bloomsburg, but a microcosm of major shifts in organizational management across education and other human services fields and disciplines. Throughout much of our history, we have maintained that schools and select non-profits should not be run like businesses. Yet as fixed costs rise and resources become constrained through limited increases in state aid and the Act 1 index, sustainability requires the application of business management principles.