

D38 (Cont. from 1)

ing well.

Executive Director of Student Services Rick Frampton, who is also responsible for pandemic response,

reported that although data regarding COVID-19 has improved considerably since November, the incidence is still much higher than last spring. Nonetheless, the county has chosen to declare the county to be in the yellow phase of

the state dashboard (with purple being the most serious, followed by red and orange). At this point, return to in-person learning is recommended but not required.

He said 194 members of the staff have received their first COVID vaccination and 29 have received their second. The assumption is that once at least 80 percent of those who have contact with students have been vaccinated, staff will no longer have to be quarantined.

It is hoped that all staff who desire it will be vaccinated by the end of March.

On the day of the meeting, 340 staff and students were in quarantine. A great deal of time and effort is being spent on tracing contacts between individuals who test positive and those around them.

A primary concern with returning to full-time in-person learning is the difficulty of maintaining social distancing in secondary schools. One way to counteract this would be to create

several pods within each classroom so that each student is only near four or five others on a regular basis. Staggering periods and adding lunch periods could reduce the number of students in the hall at any given moment.

Synchronous learning will remain valuable in times of distance learning



Above: At the regular February board meeting on the 22nd, Dr. Lori Benton announced that Jessica McAllister (left), D38's Career and Technical Education (CTE) coordinator, was recently recognized as an emerging leader of the year by the Colorado Association for Career & Technical Administrators (CACTA). CACTA is the administration division within the Colorado Association for Career and Technical Education (CACTE), the state professional association. Benton, who is chief academic officer for D38, said McAllister was nominated by her peers across Colorado and was the unanimous choice for her attitude, positivity, and her willingness to dig in and learn. She was instrumental in leading the revision of the CTE programs, said Benton. McAllister helped the district completely revise its CTE programs this past year. McAllister said she is thankful for the opportunity to work for the district—she loves what she does and who she does it for. *Photo by Jackie Burhans.*

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