

WEBVTT

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Jason Schmidt: Hey everybody. Welcome again to the panther podcast. This is Jason I. Here I am, here again with Dr. Dean hats. So welcome, Dean to podcast again.

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00:00:12.330 --> 00:00:14.099

Dean Hess : Thanks for having me. Jason much, appreciate it.

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Jason Schmidt: You know, it feels like it feels to me like I can, I can only do this because you're willing to keep on coming on. So you've been you've been a regular feature I should almost upgrade you to co host from here on out.

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Dean Hess : We can have our own talk show, Jason.

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Jason Schmidt: You know what I think. I think we've got an audience. I really do. Hey, this, this could definitely happen.

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Dean Hess : Much appreciated.

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Jason Schmidt: Well, I, speaking of appreciation. I do appreciate your, your time on a Friday afternoon for us to go over and just talk about a few things you know give people an update about

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Jason Schmidt: Ending the first week of school here which you know there's been a lot of anticipation and seems like even more so, then we would normally have in regular school year.

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Jason Schmidt: What are some of the things that you maybe have seen this week as as a superintendent that really just have stood out to you that would that would testify to how things have been going this week.

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Dean Hess : That's a great question. I

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Dean Hess : Think, one of the first things that a lot of people have

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Dean Hess : Have voiced this to me and then I have observed. Our students have done an absolutely outstanding job to rise to the expectations of this new school year and you know sometimes we we really need to reflect on that to make sure that we continue to remember

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Dean Hess : Our students, quite often will exceed our expectations. And I think this is a great example, whether it be the great job they're doing with donning their masks and

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Dean Hess : In meeting some of those expectations of social distancing and how things are different.

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Dean Hess : To just their, their willingness to to do whatever it takes to be successful. So our kids are doing a super job, people are noticing it and and it's really appreciated it. Just, just one more example of the, the group, group of young people that we work with.

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Dean Hess : I think the other big thing that's making it successful is all the people working together. I mean, this is kind of now the culmination of the work of a lot of folks before the school year started and because of all of their efforts.

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Dean Hess : At that point, and now also because of the way that everybody's working together, whether that be the communication between parents and staff members or staff members and staff members.

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Dean Hess : It's, it's been a relatively smooth start in with all the challenges that we have. But I'll tell you, kudos to everybody involved kudos to the staff and the parents and the kids well done.

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Jason Schmidt: Yeah, I just as an observer, you know, going between each of the buildings myself to it's been really, really cool to see how

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Jason Schmidt: The kids have been adapting how the teachers have been, you know, been very professional about, you know, handling every situation that that that has come their way. And

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Jason Schmidt: being flexible and adaptable and like all of those kinds of things that were that we're looking for in

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Jason Schmidt: In our in our staff and our students and I've been seeing a lot of those characteristics exhibit too. So they're not just putting on a show for you like it really is like, it seems like it's really happening so

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Jason Schmidt: I would just echo that to, you know, great job of to all of our staff, all of our students, you know, parents for the support. They've been giving it's really been a great start to the school year.

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Jason Schmidt: One of the, one of the things that, you know, a just kind of now, now that we've had a great start. And we're coming to a holiday weekend.

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Jason Schmidt: We want to be able to kind of continue to build on that momentum that we've built up. Now, this, this first week, so I guess what, what kind of encouragement, would you have for people as they go out on their holiday weekend and, you know, get some r&r and things like that.

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Jason Schmidt: You know how, how would we what I guess what encouragement, do you have for people

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Dean Hess : Well, I think you hit on it right now. People have been putting in a lot of time and effort and they have to remember to take care of themselves and their families as well.

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Dean Hess : And so I encourage people to get out and enjoy themselves this weekend to try to recharge their batteries and and get a chance to, you know, reconnect maybe with family and friends if they haven't been able to do that as much the summer because of all the work that they've been doing

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Dean Hess : At the same time that they're doing that, I would ask that anything they can do to be thoughtful about their decisions.

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Dean Hess : Staying away from the huge groups of people, because whatever we can do to slow the spread a coven is just that much more support to the system of being able to keep our kids in schools. So

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00:04:48.900 --> 00:05:03.720

Dean Hess : You know, it's interesting that it's Labor Day weekend. There's been a lot of labor going on by a lot of folks to get the start of the year going and there's going to be a lot more labor here in the future. And I'll throw out to people that as we come back this next week.

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Dean Hess : Again, the importance of working together trying to be thoughtful of our communication being flexible and maintaining that that high level of sense of humor is going to be important because there are definitely still a lot of challenges for us to address.

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Dean Hess : And it's important that we work together and and do the best that we can. And always assume positive intent. It goes a long ways. So I'm the kind of excited for people to have a few days away. And then I'm excited to get back to it here next Tuesday.

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Jason Schmidt: Awesome, thanks for the encouragement. That's really helpful and a good message for everybody to keep in mind, you know, especially as we've

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Jason Schmidt: Been putting in so many hours and so much time and effort just to remember that we also need to take care of ourselves and, you know, Hey, there, there is more to life than

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Jason Schmidt: Just school and just work and you know we have we have these opportunities to relax and recharge and, you know, come back and maintain the momentum. Right.

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Jason Schmidt: Absolutely. I'm glad.

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Dean Hess : Well, one thing is we

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Dean Hess : Are going to put out a request for for help, there's one thing that is labor related

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Dean Hess : Where we're really struggling right now and it's we could really use some help in our transportation department. And I know that people have said to me.

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Dean Hess : You know whether they catch me at the grocery store at in a an activity or on the sidewalk. Hey Dean. I just want you to know, you know. We're with you and let us know if you need any help.

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Dean Hess : And here's one example where we could really use some help. We are really shy right now of of bus drivers and we've had

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Dean Hess : A situation here over the last few weeks where we've lost some of our full time drivers as well as some of our, our backup drivers and so

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Dean Hess : We're at a critical mass. Right now we are are really, really in need of folks and so

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Dean Hess : We're reaching out internally for anybody that might be willing to work towards their commercial driver's license. They would just need to contact our

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Dean Hess : Our transportation department and talk with Brian Schrader and if you are unaware of that number you can reach out to the district office and we'll get you the information that you need.

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Dean Hess : We're reaching out to parents and coaches and community members staff members everybody so

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Dean Hess : I'm hoping that people will answer the call.

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Jason Schmidt: Yeah, I'm bus drivers are one of those, that's one of those jobs that is just kind of, it's like a substitute teacher, it's, there's just a perpetual need

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Jason Schmidt: That you know you can you can never have enough people who are able to drive a bus and you know help get kids where they need to get because you know the logistics of transportation are just huge. So

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Jason Schmidt: It's an

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Dean Hess : It's an extremely important position mean when you think about it.

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Dean Hess : There's no way that we can teach students

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Dean Hess : If we

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Dean Hess : I shouldn't say there's no way but

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Dean Hess : Under the way we'd like to we'd like to be able to transport them from home to school, if at all possible, and teach them face to face, like we are right now.

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Dean Hess : In order to teach them face to face. We have to have somebody who's able to get them here and get them home safely. So our bus drivers play a critical role on our team and we're very appreciative of the work that they do. And so whatever we can do to support them would be outstanding.

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00:08:34.140 --> 00:08:42.570

Jason Schmidt: I'm hoping that people hear the call and that they answer and that we're able to meet the district's needs because you know this is

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Jason Schmidt: A the work that we do is definitely very important and, you know, we want to do everything that we can to make sure that we have kids here so

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00:08:50.970 --> 00:09:02.490

Jason Schmidt: Good good encouragement and a good message for everybody to kind of keep in mind and you know if you're looking for maybe a little bit of extra spending money or something like that. You want to spend some time driving around the countryside. This might not be a bad way to do that.

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00:09:03.180 --> 00:09:04.830

Dean Hess : Well, and that's a great point to is

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Dean Hess : People

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Dean Hess : You know, sometimes folks think, well, I can't do you know a full time morning or evening route.

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Dean Hess : Even if you're somebody who would be willing to be a backup driver in an emergency need type scenario or if you're somebody who likes to go to the activities and could potentially be a driver for taking our student athletes to an event.

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Dean Hess : You can get your, your license and and participate at whatever level will work for you. So a any any part that somebody can be to this solution would be greatly appreciated.

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00:09:42.480 --> 00:09:48.390

Jason Schmidt: All right. Good stuff. Any other final words of encouragement, as we kind of wrap up the first week of school.

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Dean Hess : I'm just going to ask people to accept my sincere appreciation for all of their efforts and

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Dean Hess : Again, I encourage them to enjoy themselves this weekend, and we'll get back to it this coming Tuesday. So everybody be safe. This weekend.

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00:10:03.750 --> 00:10:16.380

Jason Schmidt: Perfect, thanks again for your time. Dean really appreciate it. Appreciate your leadership and everything that goes along with it and I hope you also get a chance to relax and not have to work the entire weekend.

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Dean Hess : Thanks. Jason you to you. Take care, buddy. Thanks for your help with this podcast.

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00:10:21.720 --> 00:10:22.920

Jason Schmidt: Yeah, of course. Thanks again.

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00:10:23.490 --> 00:10:24.120

Dean Hess : Yep. Bye bye.