

Update on State Funding, etc.

Currently, the state is still looking to finalize its budget for 2011-2012. Federal funding is no clearer at this point. I am not sure what impact the debt ceiling issue may have on receiving any federal funding. It appears that transportation funding will be cut by about 6%.

We haven't heard back from the Village of Poplar Grove on impact fees or from the Capital Development Board either.

Grants

We received notice from the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity that we received a \$26,131.50 grant to replace some of our lighting with more energy efficient lighting in some of the gyms. Jim Novak did all of the work to apply for the grant and deserves the credit for this.

Jane Lenser informed me that four of the schools received grants from the Library Book Selection Service for copies of the Illinois award books for next year. Each library will receive about 20 book titles

NBHS--Abraham Lincoln

NBMS--Caudill

Manchester--Bluestem

Poplar Grove--Monarch

Capron and NBUE had received similar grants last year; so they were unable to apply this year. Normally it is rare for two schools in the same district to win in a given year; something I pointed out last August. For us to have had four schools receive the grant is really amazing.

Disaster Relief

We did receive \$4,445.96 from the IEMA in response to our application for relief based upon the blizzard in February 2011. Those funds will be used to offset the additional expenses we accrued in the Operations & Maintenance budget.

Band Contest

The Boone County Fair will be hosting a Band Contest on Wednesday, August 10th at 7:00 p.m. The three county high school bands will perform. \$5250 in prize money will be distributed with the 1st place band winning \$2000. Additionally, each band is able to keep half of the face value of the \$10 tickets for the event. So, we could raise up to \$5000 if our band sells all 600 tickets it was assigned for the event and wins 1st place.

Advanced Placement Results

Attached are the results for the past five years of AP scores for NBHS. Our number of students taking the exams is at a record high with 29 students taking 34 exams, but the percentage of students receiving a score of 3 or better dropped to 31%. Only 17 students took exams in 2007, but 88% of them received scores of 3 or higher. None of the courses show strength, but AP Biology was particularly poor with only two students who took the exam and both scoring a 1. We definitely need to work on improving our honors and AP courses.

PSAE Results

The draft summary scores for the PSAE results for the Class of 2012 are in each of your folders. I ask the NBHS staff to speak to the results in September when we have more final outcomes. What I am hearing from other superintendents is that reading scores on the PSAE seem to have dropped across the Board between 4% to 18% (in a short unscientific survey), but no one seems to know the reason. Again, we will wait to see if the ISBE makes some sort of “correction” prior to releasing the scores. The other score that seems to have dropped across the state is the 3rd grade reading score, but again, the “final scores” haven’t been posted.

Architect RFP

We received 10 complete RFPs from a range of architectural firms. At this point, we are working to review the RFPs and determine which firm(s) to recommend to the Facilities Committee for further review. Administratively, we will conduct a first set of interviews the week of August 1.

Registration

Registration will be held at NBHS on Wednesday, July 27 and Thursday, August 4 from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. for all students. All of the necessary registration forms are available on the district’s website.

PSAE and ISAT Scores

We have received the initial scores from the state, but I continue to be hesitant to share them until the ISBE determines that they are the “final scores.”