

Dr. Sharon Olds

Dr. Olds successfully defended her dissertation on Tuesday, April 19 as part of her doctoral program at Aurora University. Her dissertation topic dealt with the use of humor by female senior administrators. If you have the opportunity, please take a moment to congratulate her on this significant achievement. Less than 3% of the general population earns a doctoral degree.

Sarah Lee

NBHS FFA president, Sarah Lee, has been recommended by the State FFA Executive Committee to receive the Illinois State FFA Degree. She will be receiving this honor on June 16, 2011 at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield. Sarah is the daughter of Rita and Lars Lee.

FEMA Claim

Cathy Nelson met with a FEMA representative towards our application to be reimbursed for the snow removal tied to the significant snow fall earlier this year. We are eligible for this potential reimbursement as Boone County was included within the disaster area designations by the state and federal governments.

Town Hall Meeting

On April 14, 2011, I held a town hall meeting to provide an overview of the district's current fiscal situation and to allow the public to ask questions about the budget process and the issues before the Board. The meeting ran over the two hours allotted but about 100 people attended. I held similar meetings earlier in the day for the transportation staff and the rest of the faculty and staff. Transportation staff members are generally working at 3:30 p.m. when we hold staff meetings, so we held a special session for them in order that they could get the same information that the rest of the staff received at 3:30 p.m. If there was a general theme, it was people are not in favor of outsourcing transportation.

Update on State Funding, etc.

On Thursday, Mike Greenlee and I were able to attend to IASA Division Meeting where Mark Anderson from the ISBE's School Business Services spoke. The key points of his presentation were similar to what I have heard before in that General State Aid may be prorated as early as this spring. He is hopeful we will get one more mandated categorical payment (MCAT) this year. We have received one to date and two in December from the previous year.

He also sees changes in the pension system to move the burden from the state to the local government agencies. He stated that there is talk of moving the 1.5 mile transportation mandate back to 3 miles in order to save money and reduce the burden on the local Boards since transportation funding is being cut so deeply.

Radio Spot

I did an April 20, 11:00 a.m. On The Air with Bill Villont on BNNS Radio to discuss the current budget happenings and other North Boone issues along with some of the upcoming local Chamber of Commerce events. It was originally to have been on April 19.

Capital Development Board

We have been contacted by the Capital Development Board about the District's 2000 Application that made it to the 2003 list of grant recipients. The state is slowly wading through the list. We have a first meeting with the CDB staff and Wold on May 5. Hopefully, they will approve some of the projects we already completed as eligible for this funding.

Science Audit

Attached is the first draft of the Science audit findings that was completed at NBHS. The initial feedback that Chris Troller and I received from the staff has been positive. One of the largest concerns raised by the consultant is the extremely high failure rate among students taking science courses at NBHS. This is something that had been identified earlier and that we will need to address with staff. Similarly, the current science exams leave a lot of room for improvement.

Changes to the Athletic Conference

The Big Northern Conference held a special meeting held on 4/14. The meeting was held so that the Board of Control and AD's could discuss the application of Rockford Christian. The first item of business was to decide if Rock Falls and Mendota would be allowed to vote. It was decided by a vote of 11-0 that they be allowed to vote as this directly affects those schools. The second item was discussion on admittance for Rockford Christian. A motion was made to accept them in with the following alignments: East- Central, G-K, Harvard, Marengo, North Boone, Richmond, and Rockford Christian. West- Byron, Mendota, Oregon, Rock Falls, Rockford Lutheran, Stillman Valley, and Winnebago. The motion passed 11-2. It does look like at the May meeting they will be voted into the conference. This will be for the 2012-2013 school year.

Capron Rescue Squad

I met with the Board of the Capron Rescue Squad on April 19 to discuss ways that we could work together to reduce expenses. Fuel costs are the logical item for us with CRS. They seemed eager to work with us. We should hear something definitive about their involvement by the end of May.

Volunteers

As a result of the communication with the community this past year, we have a couple of volunteers to do some of the district's grounds work. Alan Johnson is willing to volunteer to maintain the football field as long as he can have access to the district's spreader and roller in order to save him time. He is hoping to solicit donations for all of the necessary supplies, etc. but hopes the Board would approve up to \$1000 for any supplies he ends up having to purchase. Similarly, Pedro Morales, a Capron parent, has volunteered to trim the trees and provide mulch at Capron. Mr. Novak and Mr. Mulholland will work on a list of potential projects for him.

Board Orientation

Mr. Ward and I met with both of the new Board members and provided them with a brief overview of Board and district operations.

Truancy Ordinance

Michelle Courier has presented the draft Truancy Ordinance to the County Board on April 20. They sent it back to committee for further revision.

Alliance Legislative Reports

Attached is the most recent Alliance report.

Note:

I will be out of the office on Thursday, April 28 & Friday, April 29. I will be in late on May 2, 2011. Kristi Crawford will be in charge in my absence. I should be readily available via phone and e-mail.