

October 7th Institute

We had excellent feedback from the institute evaluation forms. The staff definitely like the program model of allowing the staff to select from among a number of options. This allows them to somewhat personalize their learning for the day. We used a mix of internal and external presenters. The internal presenters included Lindsay Abbeduto, Denise Bussie, Kristi Crawford, Tami Doetch, Ken DeYoung, Karen George, Jake Hubert, Megan Hughes, Krystal Kniep, Cheryl Lindberg, Kim Moore, Tammy O'Toole, Sharon Olds, Deb Torrison, Amy Velez, Michael Wesbecher, and Mike Winebrenner.

Outside presenters included; Boone County State's Attorney, Michelle Courier, Kim Maville, the BCSEC professional development staffer, COTG's Rebecca Downs, and Dr. Steven Shutz from the Crusader Clinic.

Mainstream Renewable Power provided lunch for the staff.

Governor's Consolidation Efforts

Lt. Governor Sheila Simon will lead a state commission charged with cutting school district administration costs and redirecting those tax dollars to students and classrooms, thanks to legislation signed today by Governor Quinn. Simon's Classrooms First Commission will study how districts can improve educational opportunities, reduce duplicative spending, and lower the tax burden through shared services, consolidation or other realignment options. HB 1216 calls for recommendations to be delivered to the Governor and General Assembly by July 1, 2012.

Simon's Classrooms First Commission is a 20-member team with participation from various stakeholder groups that represent teachers, school boards, principals, superintendents, parents and urban, suburban and rural areas. Community input will be a cornerstone of the commission, with public comments solicited at hearings across the state and online, Simon said. To coordinate the commission's research and report, Simon has tapped Dr. Lynne Haeffele, a research associate from the Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University.

School Construction Sales Tax

SB 2170 to amend the County School Facilities Sales Tax Law! Governor Quinn signed the PA 97-0542 into law on August 23rd. PA 97-0542 will improve the ability for school districts to access and use this important new revenue source. The ROE hosted a meeting on this subject on October 12. Attached are the materials handed out at the meeting on the 12th.

SIP Day

October 12 was an early dismissal day for School Improvement. The principals used the day for a variety of activities. The Poplar Grove grade level teams that I visited were doing some really good work. As some samples; the 1st Grade Team was working on differentiation for their stronger students using Compass Learning materials. The 2nd Grade team was working with Jill Grove on reading interventions. The Kindergarten Team was working on how to integrate the new Common Core standards into their instruction.

Fire Drills

As October is Fire Safety Month, we conducted all of the observed fire drills this month with representatives from the two Boone County Fire Districts. We held our annual critical incident meeting with the Sheriff's Department, the Capron Rescue Squad and the fire districts on October 18.

School Report Cards

Attached are the school report cards for the six schools and the district. As mentioned earlier, Poplar Grove and the Upper Elementary joined NBHS in not making AYP as the threshold increased to 84% of students needing to meet or exceed standards. Similarly the district didn't meet AYP this year.

North Boone	Reading 11	Reading 10	Math 11	Math 10	Grad Rate 11	Grad Rate 10	Attend 11	Attend 10
CE	84.2	92.7	93	95.1			95.1	95.6
ME	87.3	85.7	97.5	97.1			96.1	96.2
PG	78.9	77.4	91.7	91.3			95.4	95.3
UE	78.2	85.3	78.6	92.2			96	96
NBMS	87.4	86.7	88.7	81.9			94.5	95.1
NBHS	50	62.7	54.9	46.4	83.4	89.3		
District	78.2	79.3	82.7	77.5	83.4	89.3	93.9	94

Enrollment

Our official enrollment for the 2011-2012 School year is 1724, down slightly from last year's number of 1742.

Pre-School Audit

Our pre-school program will be audited by the ISBE sometime between now and April 2012 according to recent correspondence from the ISBE's Pre-School for All grant office.

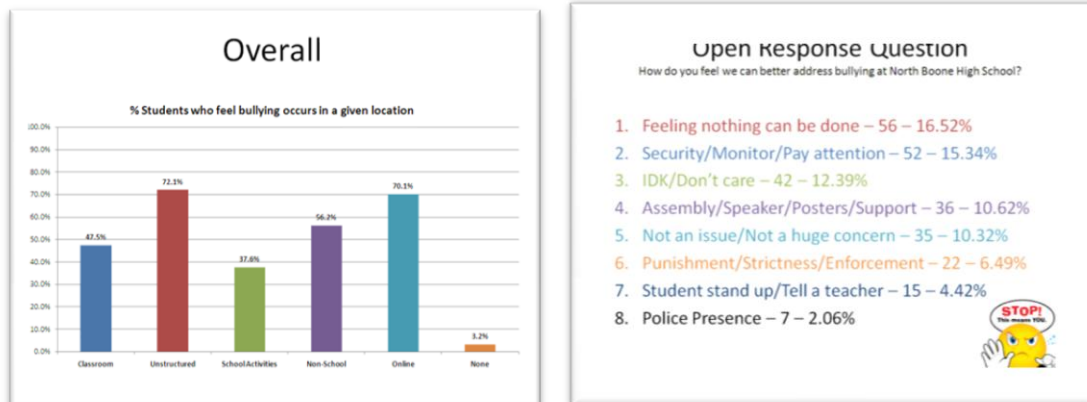
Math Assessment Development

The Pippens were here again on October 13 work with the high school math teachers and then on the second day most of the 5-12 math leaders to start to refine our assessment instruments and create common core assessments for all math courses 5-12.

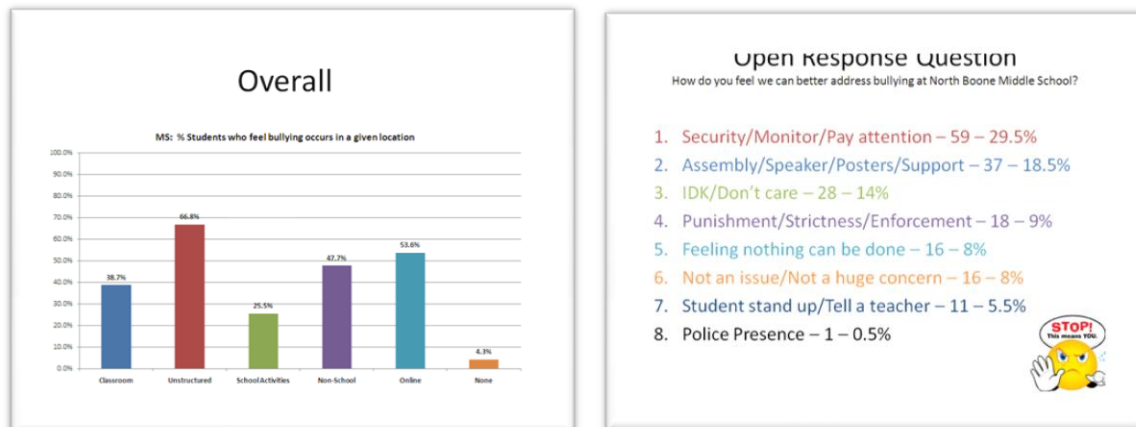
Bullying Survey

The Student Services Team, which is really doing an exceptional job of working to provide a more holistic approach to counseling, social work, and psychological services than previously provided, conducted bullying surveys at both NBHS and NBMS. This was used to assist in the development of the October 7th Anti-bullying presentation as part of the institute day.

NBHS Results



NBMS Results



State and Federal Funding

These are notes from the recent ISBE/IASA advisory Board meeting in Springfield.

Federal Money – No new Federal money expected. In fact, the IDEA regular Flow Through money that has already been appropriated for this school year has been revised. All districts will receive slightly less than originally appropriated.

Transportation Funding – Transportation funding remains in jeopardy. Please contact your legislators and if possible get parents involved.

Mandated Categorical Payments - Districts can expect the September and December payments. There is only a 50/50 chance that March payments will be disbursed by June 30th.