

In-service on October 5

Dr. Olds did an exceptional job of organizing the Oct. 5 Institute Day. We had 22 sessions for teachers including 14 taught by our staff. The co-teaching, differentiation and ESL sessions were particularly positively reviewed along with the outside presenters on enVision Math and Language Arts. Attached is a summary of the sessions. Also attached are the School Improvement Day agendas from 10/10/2012.

Language Arts Audit

The Language Arts Audit seems to be going well so far. The K-4 teachers seem to be excited about the information and support they are getting from Mindy Pudlow. She has told Dr. Olds that she is impressed with the range of support resources that we have in place for language arts. Mindy was also one of the in-service day speakers. I will pass on the summary of her initial meetings when I receive them.

EnVison Math

I am hearing more positive responses from teachers about the new math series, but I am still hearing some concerns and struggles. However, most of the teachers feel that we selected the correct series but the combination of new resources and the Common Core standards are somewhat daunting to many of the teachers. They feel that the new curriculum will generate deeper understanding over time, but that the initial implementation is difficult. The kindergarten teachers are struggling with several aspects of the program including the multi-step directions and the ease of use and availability for some of the technology resources.

iFiber

I have still not heard back from the iFiber people, but I have been checking with Ken from Boone County.

Sales Tax Referendum

I presented with D100 at the Poplar Grove Village Meeting on October 8 about the County Sales Tax Referendum on the November Ballot. We have also set up a web page for information and allow for people to send in questions about the referendum. We provided the FAQ sheets at parent-teacher conferences as well. There is another informational meeting at Candlewick on Wednesday, October 24, 2012 at 6:30.

Boone County Truancy Ordinance

I spoke at the Boone County Board's administrative and legislative committee meeting on October 1 about the impact of the truancy ordinance that was passed in 2011. It appears that the Board remains supportive of the ordinance as are the sheriff and state's attorney. I would like to thank them for their continued support.

Stadium Committee Meeting

The next stadium committee meeting will be October 24 at 6:00 p.m. at NBHS. At the time of writing this report, we have had about 90 people respond to the stadium survey online. The results will be shared with the committee Wednesday.

School Report Cards

Attached are the School Report Cards for 2012. They will be posted on the website shortly. I am hoping to have the ECRA grow data for NBHS to share with you at the meeting, but it may not be ready in time. If that is the case, I will send it to you when it is available and discuss it at the November meeting. The NBHS staff are also planning to give the ASVAB test to seniors in order to facilitate the EXPLORE AND PLAN tests for underclassmen in November.

Cell Phone Use at Lunch at NBHS

Students are able to use their cell phones at lunch starting 10/15 as long as the tardy rate for class remains low. This is part of the PBIS positive reinforcements developed by the NBHS staff this year.

NCLB Issues for Poplar Grove and NBUE

Since Poplar Grove failed to meet AYP for two years in a row, they are under a federal mandate to offer school choice. At this time, we have one fourth grader who opted to attend Manchester instead of Poplar Grove.