

**Staff Recognition**

Bradley Breakfield (NBUE) was recognized as the WGN- Teacher of the Month last week and received \$1000 for his classroom as part of that honor. We had a number of teachers nominated for the Golden Apple Award as well:

**North Boone High School**

Brian Arenz  
Dawn Bartel  
Cathy Excell  
Shane Finley  
Kristen Miller  
Ann Mylin  
Cheryl Peterson  
Debra Torrison

**North Boone Middle School**

Kelly Hanaman  
Eileen Moran  
Michael Winebrenner

**North Boone Upper Elementary**

Jodie Rogers

Dr. Olds also asked that the extra effort that Rita Lee recently put in to organize the reading materials for students at Poplar Grove get some special notice as well. Rita Lee inventoried our massive book room and created a spreadsheet where teachers can easily sort and find guided reading books related to topic, F and P level, Lexile, Common Core Standard, Reading Strategy, and theme. This task was monumental, and Rita often stayed after work working on this project.

In particular, this has helped immensely as teachers really incorporate the Common Core Standards and integrate Social Studies and Science topics into guided reading.

I anticipate being able to announce at least one more external honor for a staff member shortly as well.

**Funding and Pension Rule Changes**

I think everyone anticipates that the pension changes will hit us on January 7 or 8. Again, I would love to be proven wrong, but I am hearing that local districts will have to start paying the state's current share of pension contributions, about 8%. The big question is whether or not that will be phased in or not. That will most likely take effect on July 1, but might actually become effective earlier.

### **Tri - Conference Workshops**

Attached are the handouts from those sessions that I attended which provided handouts and some additional notes from some of the other sessions that I attended. The key seems to be that there is a great deal of anger about the changes being forced upon districts by the state and federal government. Mr. Kinser and many others spoke to me about the anger evidenced in one of the legislative update sessions. Definitely, there is a need to review what is structurally sustainable going forward. PERA, SB7 and the fiscal cliff have created one nice soupy mess for us at the district level.

### **iFiber**

I have still not heard back from the iFiber people, but I have been checking with Ken Terrinoni from Boone County. Ken informed me last week that the iFiber people are still working on a wireless solution for North Boone.

### **CEANCI**

We are working on an extremely short time frame to try to take advantage of some community pressure on the Winnebago County Board and RVC to set up a true career center in the mode of those in DuPage and Lake Counties. I am hopeful but not entirely optimistic that such a program can be in place for the fall of 2013. We have some significant logistical issues to overcome plus more than a little political drama, which I am trying to stay far away from. We are also working with CEANCI to ensure the proposed Landscape Architecture course is approved for EFE (Education for Employment) funding.

### **1:1 Device Preparation**

Lindsay Abbeduto and the NBMS teachers are working on planning for a pilot of 1:1 tablets for 7<sup>th</sup> graders next year. One of the key things that has already come out of the tablet preparation is the use of graphing calculators in NBMS algebra. The current class set of tablets is being well used. Mrs. Abbeduto will be taking a group of staff on some site visits to see other 1:1 programs in action over the winter.

### **Stadium Committee Update**

Attached are the responses from the Stadium Committee Survey. The committee took a tour of Genoa-Kingston, Harvard and Clinton to review and compare those facilities as well.

### **ERCA Data for NBHS**

As promised a couple months ago, we now have the ECRA growth analysis for our NBHS students. As the attached summary shows, the NBHS students are generally doing as expected making average growth, just slightly above the expected mean and in all cases within the standard deviation of anticipated performance. Unfortunately, there are no areas of above average growth, but that is balanced by no areas of below average growth either. This data is based upon the Explore, PLAN & ACT results and the MAP results for students in grades 9, 10 & 11. MAP testing isn't done with seniors. Similarly, there is no parallel E/P/A test for seniors. I would also like to recall for the Board that NBHS did see a significantly positive increase in both AP test participation and scoring last year.