

Student News

NBHS Senior Breanna Schaedel signed her letter of intent to play volleyball at Sauk Valley on Wednesday morning. The BDR had a nice article about Lily Perez's perfect ISAT score in math in its Wednesday paper last week.

Funding and Pension Rule Changes

I think everyone anticipated that the pension changes would be in place. At this point, my understanding is that a lack of a pension deal will have a direct impact on General State Aid. We have been told by both local legislators and Dr. Chris Koch that GSA will be prorated to 80% from last year's 89.13%. That is reflected in PMA's projections.

Before School Care at Poplar Grove

Dr. Olds set up a before school care option for children at Poplar Grove. We are breaking even and we hope for some additional growth in participation in the spring. Attached is a summary of the program's use put together by Dr. Olds and Wendy Spence.

CEANCI

Wednesday, CEANCI had a special meeting with RVC to determine moving forward with a vocational center. They voted to move forward and will have a formal press release next week. I anticipate that this should be a good opportunity for some of our students, but will take a couple of years to mature. One concern is working through the development of the AG program and ensuring it becomes a truly regional program. (As a side note, we sent off to ISBE approval forms for more AG courses to be vocationally approved for the fall now that we have a properly certified teacher.) The biggest issue will be to develop a strong Intergovernmental Agreement with RVC that allows the member districts to have some say in how things are done. I will be on the curriculum committee and Greg Brown will represent Boone County on the finance committee.

Special Education Options

I have been working to explore some more special education options and will share those at the January meeting since Belvidere is eager to dissolve the BCSEC. The biggest issue is a \$2.5 million fund balance of which we would be due about \$403K, based upon enrollment.

Obviously, that would allow D100 to help offset their deficit for next year. Attached is a copy of the handout provided by the BCSEC on the timeline/process to dissolve. The Board's options are as follows:

1. Oppose the dissolution and hire a new cooperative director
2. Oppose the dissolution and hire our own director, effectively making the cooperative dormant
3. Allow for the dissolution and join another special education cooperative
4. Allow for the dissolution and hire our own special education director

Options 3 or 4 would require approval of the ISBE probably about December 2013. Option 3 would also require another cooperative willing to let us join. Currently, the district doesn't have any students in BCSEC programs. It does have two students enrolled in D100 programs; one of which is a special needs student. The other is at Endeavor HS. D100 has articulated they would be willing to sign an intergovernmental agreement to allow for the continuing placement of such students. There are a couple other issues that would also need to be addressed in an IGA, but D100 seems amenable to our needs in conversations to date.

Spanish Classes for Staff

Our first NIU Spanish class went well with about 22 participants. Interestingly none of the ESPs who signed up dropped but several of the teachers have.

ESL Parent Meeting

The ESL Parent Meeting Minutes are attached from their January 14, 2013 meeting.

Voice Mail

Due to some power outages we lost some of our voice mail over break. If you hear from someone that their call was not returned please apologize and ask them to call again.