

Senior Honors Night

The NBHS senior honors night went extremely well. We were able to announce over \$600,000 in scholarships and aid for the Class of 2011. Mrs. Troller and her staff did an exceptional job of making the night special for all of the graduates. Mrs. Troller and Mr. Joe Lennon from the ROE conducted an alternative graduation ceremony for a single NBHS student who is receiving an alternative diploma on May 18. They did an excellent job and made the student feel special and accomplished.

Community Foundation of Northern Illinois

Jane Lenser was able to obtain a \$500 grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois to assist in providing summer library hours for our elementary students since we are not served by a public library. The Poplar Grove PTO is also donating to this cause in order to make sure we have some minimal library hours over the summer for students to borrow books. Attached is a overview of how the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois manages its assets.

Belvidere Area Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber held their annual Wine & Beer Tasting on May 19 at the Apollo to raise money for school supplies for students in need. Lee Ward, Jake Hubert and Dr. Sharon Olds all provided baked goods for the silent auction at the event.

On May 26, Mr. Houselog and I will be providing state of the school updates to the Chamber at its morning meeting.

Tennis Camp

Bob Edwards is planning to offer a tennis camp for our students this summer during the third week of June. He is planning on doing this at no cost to the district or to the students who participate.

Class of 2011 Class Gift

The Class of 2011 is working with Jim Novak on placing a small mulch court yard outside of the student entrance to the building. It will include one or more picnic tables and the FFA Club has volunteered to keep it clean, weeded, etc.

Update on State Funding, etc.

Currently, the state is looking to finalize its budget for 2011-2012. We are anticipating some loss of funding based upon the current drafts from each Chamber. However, there is open discussion of prorating General State Aid and most likely looking to increase the teachers' contributions to TRS from about 9.4% to 13.5%. Federal funding is no clearer at this point, although we are anticipating some reduction in education for employment funding (vocational education) as a near certainty.

Capital Development Board - Update

We met with the Capital Development Board about the District's 2000 Application on the 2003 list of grant recipients. The state is slowly wading through the list. Hopefully, they will approve some of the projects we already completed as eligible for this funding. We are anticipating an initial response from the CDB as to the scope of eligible work by the end of the summer.

Impact Fees

We are getting a handle on the Impact Fee situation from the Village of Poplar Grove. We would hope to use some of those funds to deal with facilities issues at North Boone Schools.

Math Audit Observations

Randy and Sue Phippen were in the district on May 19 & 20 to observe a number of our math teachers to provide some constructive criticism to our staff and try to improve the level of math instruction throughout the district. Similarly, in response to the earlier audit report, we will be moving all of the 5th grade students to the Course 1 book currently used by some 6th graders for next year.

June 7 Institute Day

The June 7th Institute Day will be set up similarly to the October Institute Day in that staff will get some choice as to the sessions they participate in. Plus there will be an overview of the new Common Core Standards for all of the staff. Barb Sager, Lori Graciana, Shane Finley, Cheryl Peterson, Kristi Crawford, Kevin Finnegan and Jane Lenser will all be presenting to their peers that day. Chicago Office Technology Group will also be doing some SMART Board training.

Technology Update

Randy, Kathy and Jerry are working hard to make sure the district's technology infrastructure remains strong and viable. Kathy is working to make sure all of the end of year state reporting is being done accurately and that the ISBE's SIS and Power School are working well together. We will be replacing the current website over the summer with a more user friendly version. Unlike the last website update that was completed by an outside vendor, this work has all been done internally.

Through some of the remaining ARRA – IDEA funds, Kim Moore has asked that we provide some tablets for early childhood programming and the new life skills programming. Over the summer, Jane Lenser and Randy will work on both the academic /software and hardware implementation for those programs.

Truancy Ordinance

Michelle Courier has presented the draft Truancy Ordinance to the County Board. It should be approved by the County Board at its June meeting.

Alliance Legislative Reports

Attached is the most recent Alliance report.