

Staff Recognition

Colleen Bowman, Capron, and Jean Perkins, NBUE, were both featured in the getting to know you section of the Rockford Register Star in the past couple of weeks. Karin Taylor organized storyteller and author Cindy Adreon-Petersen to present to students and parents for the kick off of the BEAR (Being Excited About Reading) program. Janet Lobo was awarded a spot in a Gilder Lehrman Institute summer seminar. She will be spending a week at Chapman University in Orange, CA studying "Teaching American History with Images."



State Library Grant

We will be receiving \$1,294.75 from the Illinois State Library, but the timeframe for actually receiving the checks is projected as six months or longer. We will wait until we have the check to actually spend the money, but at least they have officially announced the results. Thanks to Jane Lenser for drafting the grant. She is currently working with the secondary administrators and counselors on a federal counseling /student services grant that could be worth up to \$350,000 per year for three years.

National Board Certification

I recently sent out information to our faculty about National Board Certification and I am trying to encourage a few of our strongest teachers to apply for the program. I think that we have a number of teachers who would really do well in this program.

Student Growth Models

Representatives from ECRA came and spoke to a group of us about their student growth model. We actually had two presentations, one on the principal growth model and another specifically on the teacher growth model. I gave an open invitation to our teaching staff to attend so they could hear directly about the model and ask questions. One of the biggest unknowns would be how to accurately measure growth for some of the non-core academic areas, such as art, business and music. The same data warehouse would also be able to provide program evaluation data. The principals are universally supportive of this program. Attached are some of the ERCA materials shared at those presentations.

Required Board Member Training

Attached is a listing of the requirements for Board member training under the recent changes in Illinois law.

Cinco de Mayo

The Chamber of Commerce is holding a Cinco de Mayo Celebration on May 5 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Proceeds go to provide school supplies for both North Boone and D100. Let me know if you are interested in tickets. The district's Cinco de Mayo Celebration will be held on May 2, 2012 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Capron Elementary School.

Insurance Cooperative

Miller, Buettner and Parrott are working with about ten districts to see if they can organize a health insurance cooperative that will be able to save us some money over time. MB&P is currently working with about a dozen districts on this project. They plan to go out to bid with the program in May.

Math

The math pilot teachers are continuing to review our selected resources. The first series, *enVision*, was used in the elementary classrooms from February 21st – March 23rd. On March 21st, teachers met to discuss the *enVision* resources and to turn in evaluation forms. On April 2nd, teachers began using the *My Math* resources in their classrooms and will continue using these through April 27th. On April 25th, the teachers will meet again to discuss the *My Math* resources and to do a final comparison between *enVision* and *My Math*.

During this pilot, teachers are focusing on the written materials, technology, and home components. At the end of each week, the teachers send comments to the pilot team about how their week went using the resources and to ask questions of each other. The teachers are doing an outstanding job with the pilot. They are spending a great amount of time reviewing the materials and recording notes about both positive and challenging items that they see displayed in each textbook series. The committee should be on target to make a recommendation to the Board in May.

Upper Elementary Computer Curriculum

Michael Wesbecher is continuing to refine the computer curriculum for grades 5 to 8. Attached is his most recent draft. The focus is going to be on keyboarding at 5th grade and then a shared focus on Google Apps and Microsoft Office in grades six through eight.

Technology Update

Jerry Rudolph has been looking into various tablet options for replacing our sub-notebook laptops. All would use the Android Operating system and be less expensive than sub-notebooks. Our plan would be to pilot at least one tablet cart in the fall. Jerry has gotten several demonstrator models and has allowed the NBUE and NBMS staffs to review them. Currently, the front runner is the Eee Pad by ASUS. I plan to have one available at the Board meeting for your review.