

School Calendar

I am hoping to have both a 2013 & 2014 calendar for the Board to approve at its January meeting. I will have a public draft shortly after the New Year. I want to get some feedback about how the exam schedule played out at NBHS before I finalize my draft. If anyone has any strong feelings for or against a two year calendar, please let me know.

Governor's Consolidation Efforts

Last month, I stated*However, we are anticipating some type of consolidation among the Regional Offices. The goal will probably be to decrease the number of ROEs from about 44 to less than 20. We will wait to see what kind of action the state takes.* I have since spoken to one of the people on the ROE committee and I have been told that some type of consolidation of the ROEs, probably to the scope of the previously extant ESCs (Educational Service Centers), will take place in the spring.

Winter Concerts

The NBHS band and choir held their winter concert on December 8. The crowd fairly well filled the cafeteria space at NBHS. The NBMS band and choir along with the NBUE band held their concert on December 12.

SB 7 and PERA

Attached are the ISBE's proposed rules for implementing SB7 including the upcoming principal evaluation changes for the fall of 2012. Also attached is the ISBE's summary of their four areas of focus.

Technology

We will be completing the upgrades from 6MB to 20MB connections between the K-4 campuses and the main campus with Fox Valley during the week of December 19. The Power School Upgrade was completed, but we have had a couple of extra steps to deal with after the major upgrade. Power School support continues to be less than stellar.

We have started to have some exploratory discussions looking at a potential 1:1 pilot program for the fall of 2013. This came up through conversations with some staff.

K-9s at NBHS & NBMS

The Boone County Sheriff and other area law enforcement agencies brought K-9s to both buildings today to sniff out any drugs. Nothing was found at either building.

Facilities Projects

Jim Novak and the architects are working on drafting proposals for roofing projects at Capron and NBMS as well as the Manchester cafeteria renovation. They are working on a longer term facilities plan as well.

Transportation Grant

We have been notified that we will receive a \$68,528 grant from the Illinois EPA to provide heaters in 25 buses to improve their fuel efficiency. The heaters will have to be bid following confirmation of the final grant amount by the IEPA. Thanks to Ed Mulholland for finding the grant and submitting the paperwork to the IEPA.

Bookfair Sales

The library staff held book fairs in all of the buildings except NBHS this year and raised over \$2200 for library activity funds which are used primarily to purchase additional library materials for students. Thanks to Jane Lenser and the library assistants for their work on these fairs.

January Inservice Day

The January inservice day will be focused on Response to Intervention (RtI) and differentiation. We will also be providing the K-8 staff with some additional Compass Learning training. The draft schedule is attached. This inservice will be the first only for teachers. Most NBESS employees will not be attending.