

Staff Recognition

Francisco Mendez, custodian at Poplar Grove Elementary, was recognized at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner as the Boone County Employee of the Year. Francisco's work ethic is stellar, and he takes great pride in his school while being a great role model for our students. Francisco has been with the district for six years. Dr. Olds nominated Mr. Mendez last spring. The banquet was held on March 14 at the Radisson Hotel.

Parent Teacher Conferences

At NBHS, parents representing 46 students attended conferences with 30 attending the evening conferences and 16 on Friday during the day. NBMS held 11 team conferences on Thursday and 7 on Friday morning. In addition, there were at least 17 drop-in parents on Thursday and 14 on Friday morning. NBUE held approximately 70 conferences on Thursday and 45 on Friday morning. Manchester's numbers were 30 on Thursday and 17 on Friday. Poplar Grove staff saw 145 parents. Capron had the best numbers as a percentage of the student body with 133 conferences over the two days.

In-service Day March 2, 2012

The in-service day went well. Dr. Olds led the planning efforts for the day's activities. We started the day with a discussion on the new dismissal process for certified staff. We had several sessions facilitated by our internal staff along with a couple of outside presenters, specifically the FOSS Science, Math Games and Motivating Challenging Student sessions. It was nice to see a number of our internal presenters get excellent responses from their peers. Although a few teachers wanted shorter sessions or more time to work in departments, the overwhelming feedback from the in-service day was positive. A listing of the sessions and presenters is attached. Thanks to Williams Manny Insurance who sponsored the teachers' lunch. They are our liability insurance carrier through the Prairie State Cooperative.

School Improvement Day March 7, 2012

Attached are the agendas for last week's school improvement day meetings. Generally, I felt that the teachers were able to use the time productively. We are doing a better job as a district of getting all of the staff to collaborate more in curriculum development. Some of the topics were follow-up conversations from the sessions at the March 2 in-service day.

RVC Enrollments

Currently, we have 11 students still considering taking advantage of the Engineering or science Running Start program at RVC. In speaking with the RVC staff, we are trying to find some potential scholarship funding to help us allow for these students to attend. South Beloit is in a similar situation with eight students currently thinking of attending. We will be looking at potential ways to allow the students to participate while keeping our costs down.

Math

Math pathways from the state and PARCC may change to advocate a more integrated approach, e.g., Math 1, Math 2, and Math 3 instead of Algebra I & II and Geometry. Not sure what

direction Illinois will take. There is some reformer support for the integrated pathway, but lacks available materials, etc. to support instruction based upon that approach. Indiana allowed districts to select what they each wanted individually. To date, none have selected an integrated approach.

Illinois School Maintenance Grant

Jim Novak and Cathy Nelson are applying for this grant. The per district limit is approximately \$50,000, so we will try to max this grant out.

Illinois Youth Survey

The NBMS counselor will be administering this survey on student behaviors on March 23 to 6th and 8th graders. I am unsure if we have previously administered it in North Boone, but I have used it in previous districts and it provides a fair amount of useful statistical information for the student services staff and normally also positive statistics to help remove a layer of peer pressure towards inappropriate and/or dangerous behaviors.

Vaccination Changes

The state approved a new rule requiring one dose of Tdap for all students in grades 6-12 on September 27, 2011 and will be required for the fall of 2012 school enrollment. Protection against pertussis (whooping cough) begins to start wearing off during grade school. This leaves pre-teens, teenagers and adults at risk for this illness. Therefore, to alleviate the increase in pertussis cases among Illinois students, a booster vaccination called Tdap is recommended for all students in grades six through twelve. This fall, students entering sixth and ninth grades will be required to provide proof of Tdap vaccination along with the school physical forms that are also required for these grades. Barb Sager and I will be putting that information out to parents later this month.