

Student Recognition

"Pick a book, any book that has either influenced your life or changed your view of the world." This is what was asked of the eighth grade students in Mrs. Boyer's class at North Boone Middle School. After their books were chosen, they were to write letters to the authors of their books informing them of what a difference the books made in their own lives. Almost three thousand students from across the country participated in this challenge. Out of these entries, 118 semi-finalists were selected, five of them attend North Boone Middle School. The winners from NBMS include: Drew Gooding, Cameron Johnson, Angie Luna, Rianne McDaniel, and Ariana Pozos.

The NBHS Honors Night will be Wednesday, May 21 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Staff Recognition and Retirement

The staff recognition and retirement reception will be held on June 4 beginning at 3:30 at PGE. We have four retirees this year; Mrs. Istad, Mrs. Key, Mr. Vickery and Mrs. Wallace.

Spring Concerts

The NBHS and NBMS/UE musical concerts were presented last week. Both seem to have been well received by the audiences. The NBMS/UE went further and combined the concert with an art show and an academic open house. Many of the teachers participated in the open house. Mr. Greenfield set up a great display of student artwork in the main entrance to NBMS. Mrs. Wignall was present to provide advice to parents on exploratory options as well. This was a nice opportunity for parents to see what has been going on in many classrooms during the past year.

Grant Awards

We received an approximately \$27,000 grant for security related facilities upgrades though the State of Illinois's Illinois School Security Grant. The specific awards for each building are attached.

E-Rate

When we approved the MapleNET contract there was some concern at the time that the e-rate funding anticipated would not be forthcoming from the federal government. In fact, the FCC continues to work to expand e-rate funding. We have been advised that we will receive \$84,560.41 for the 2014-2015 School Year under e-rate funding. We are receiving \$55,267.86 for this year.

Principal of the Day

Alan Johnson, a former school Board member and long serving volunteer and booster club member, was the final principal for the day on May 14, visiting both Manchester and NBHS. Mr. Johnson started school at Blaine School, a one room school house and moved to Manchester when in grade 4. He graduated



from NBHS. He was a charter member of the North Boone Booster Club. I think this was a great note to end the Principal of the Day program for the year. According to Dr. Belcastro, the students really enjoyed hearing from Mr. Johnson about his elementary experiences.

Special Education Report Card

Earlier this month, we received our state special education report card for the 2012-2013 School Year, earlier this month. It was perfect in that the indicators were identified as meeting requirements or 4.0 on a 4.0 scale. A copy of the report card is attached. Congratulations to our special education staff on their work with those students with special needs.

Social Studies in Grades 5-8

The NBMS and NBUE staff members have worked out a draft of their scope and sequence for social studies next year. In fact, there will be more overall social studies coverage next year than there is this year, but the daily social studies course itself will diminish from 49 minutes to 30 minutes. As mentioned previously, the majority of the US and Illinois Constitution content will move to NBHS while the physical geography section of 7th grade social studies will be integrated into science. Going forward, social studies sequence will change to include a modern world history component that was missing from the current scope and sequence. Currently we haven't gotten past the Cold War in scope. We are hoping to move into more modern history under the new system.

K-4 Curriculum Issues

Two issues were brought forth by staff members last month. *I want to again clarify, these were not administrative suggestions but came directly from staff.* For the first issue, it was proposed that teachers would prefer to eliminate all of the reading specialists and simply hire a low level clerical person to enter the test score data. All of the K-4 certified staff was asked to participate.



The comments generally support the concept that teachers prefer to retain the reading specialists. The comments are attached.

The second issue raised is that although we have had to resort to multi-level or split classes in the past, many teachers are not fans of such classes and might prefer to have a larger class with some aide support instead of teaching in a split class environment. Next year, we currently anticipate between two and four split classrooms in the district. The first graph shows a fairly even distribution between the two options. However, the second graph shows that a clear majority would not wish to teach in a split level environment.

2. What do you think the best option would be?

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	Response Percent	Response Count
Use split classes to address class size issues; e.g. 1/2 split for a 2nd grade of 31 and a 1st grade of 19	48.8%	20
Don't split classes, provide the teacher with aide time instead	51.2%	21
	Show Responses	15
	answered question	41
	skipped question	17

3. I am personally willing to teach in a split classroom environment

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	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	23.3%	10
Yes, I would prefer a multi-age classroom	11.6%	5
No	65.1%	28
	answered question	43
	skipped question	15

The fourth question asked how much aide time would be reasonable for a larger class. The responses are attached. The majority thought between two and four hours a day would be reasonable. The responses are attached.

NBHS Schedule Change

The NBHS staff has been trying to figure out a way to better integrate Response to Intervention (RtI) into their schedule. The attached proposal would provide for both more departmental planning time and weekly RtI time for students in need of additional interventions. Mr. Hubert has received support for this plan from all but three of the current teachers to make this schedule change. Two of those teachers are not returning. The proposed schedule is attached.

Student Survey Results Regarding Tablets

After one of our 5th graders spoke at the Business Committee meeting on May 14 regarding the fact neither she nor any of her fellow students wanted tablets, I felt it might be worthwhile to have the principals conduct a more formal survey. Mr. Klett surveyed all of the 5th to 8th grade students regarding tablets who were present on May 15 (5/6) and May 16 (7/8). Dr. Belcastro was also able to survey CES and MES 4th graders with the following results:

	Want 1:1 Tablets	Don't Want 1:1 Tablets	No Opinion
4th Grade	46	5	
5th Grade	83	16*	N/A
6th Grade	96	14*	5
7th Grade	63	40	
8th Grade	16	103	2

* One 5th grader and two 6th graders voted no because they are leaving and would be sad if the tablets are expanded for next year and they can't be here. Some of the other 5th graders voted no since they don't have internet access at home. Fourteen of the 5th grade no votes came from one classroom.

Many of the 7th and 8th Grade no votes were directly related to the Droid device and would be a yes vote to a Windows device.

As a reminder, the results of the student technology survey of 7th graders completed in November showed the following results:

58% of students would expand the pilot

29% would continue it

12% would eliminate the pilot

Some concern was raised by a support staff member that the Board was not informed as to the true status of fees related to the tablet pilot. The perception is that tablet fees are not being paid. In fact, 12% of students have unpaid tablet related fees. Forty percent of those students also have other unpaid fees. In comparison, 42% of all 7th graders currently owe some type of fee. Thirty-two percent of 8th graders owe a fee of some sort.

Capital Development Board

Kelly Holsker and Jim Novak continue to work with our previous architects and the Capital Development Board to finalize the funding we are authorized. We are still trying to dig up old records of bids, etc.

PA System for Board Meetings

It has been suggested that the Board should invest in a PA system for meetings as the public has difficulty hearing at some meetings. Please let me know if the Board wishes for me to add such a system to next year's budget.

Inventory Software

There was some concern about the inability for the staff to produce more complete and thorough inventory records and help desk records including computer purchases back through 2007. Currently we utilize freeware for this. The freeware system is not as reliable or robust as a commercial product would be. Due to a system malfunction over Winter Break much of the data was lost and had to be recreated. Please let me know if the Board would like the staff to investigate a more robust inventory and help desk software program to track such information.