

Superintendent's Report

April 28, 2014

Grant Awards

Jill Grove received a \$500 grant from Sam's Club through the efforts of Michelle Staver and Jaime Wheeler, both Sam's Club employees. The funds will be used to purchase guided reading materials for K-4 classrooms.

Jim Novak received a grant worth \$14,500 from MEEA (Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance) through the STEP (*Savings Through Efficient Products*) program. This program is sponsored and funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Illinois Energy Office and basically provides electrical and water conservation equipment to qualified public schools and park facilities.

We are currently working on a potential General Mills community assistance grant. Erin Paulli and Krishna Selchow developed an Arts and Foreign Language Planning Assistance Grant that we should hear about in the next couple of weeks. Again, thanks to all of the staff who are taking the extra time to work on these grant proposals.

Spring Musical at NBHS

The musical was Thoroughly Modern Millie with Amanda Ustich as the title character. Brandon Nelson had the male lead as Jimmy Smith. Debbie Moore directed. I went to the Friday performance and I thought it was really well done. The voice work was some of the better I have heard in a high school production. About 5% of the total student body was involved in the musical at some level. I was also happy to see a fair number of teachers there to watch their students perform.

Capron Bleachers

Thanks to the Capron PTO for the purchase of new bleachers for that building.

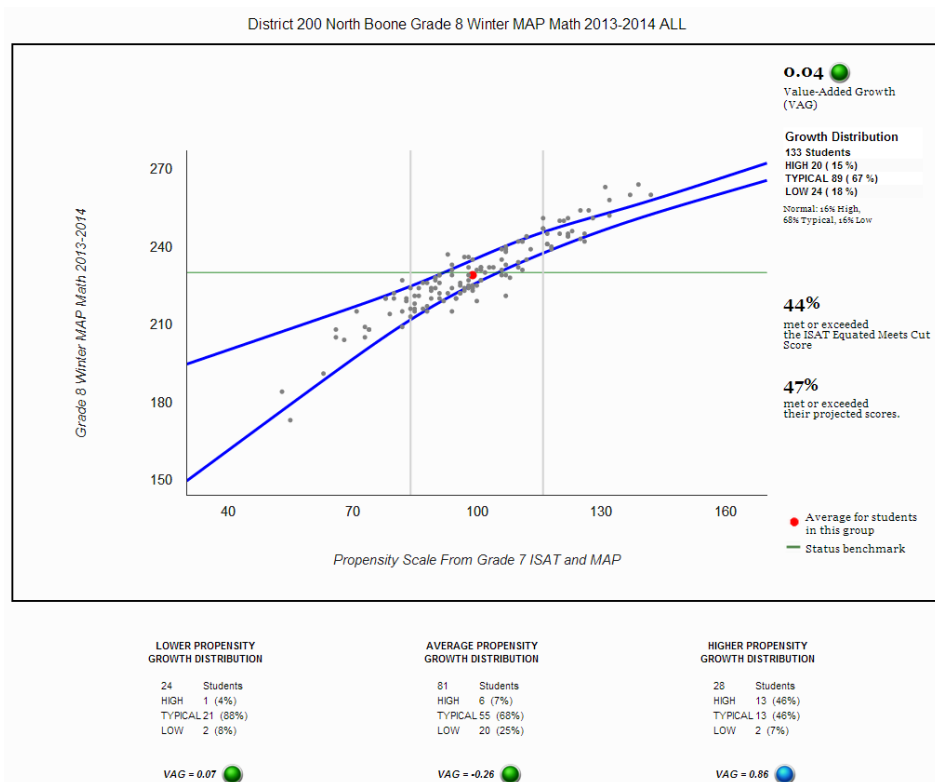
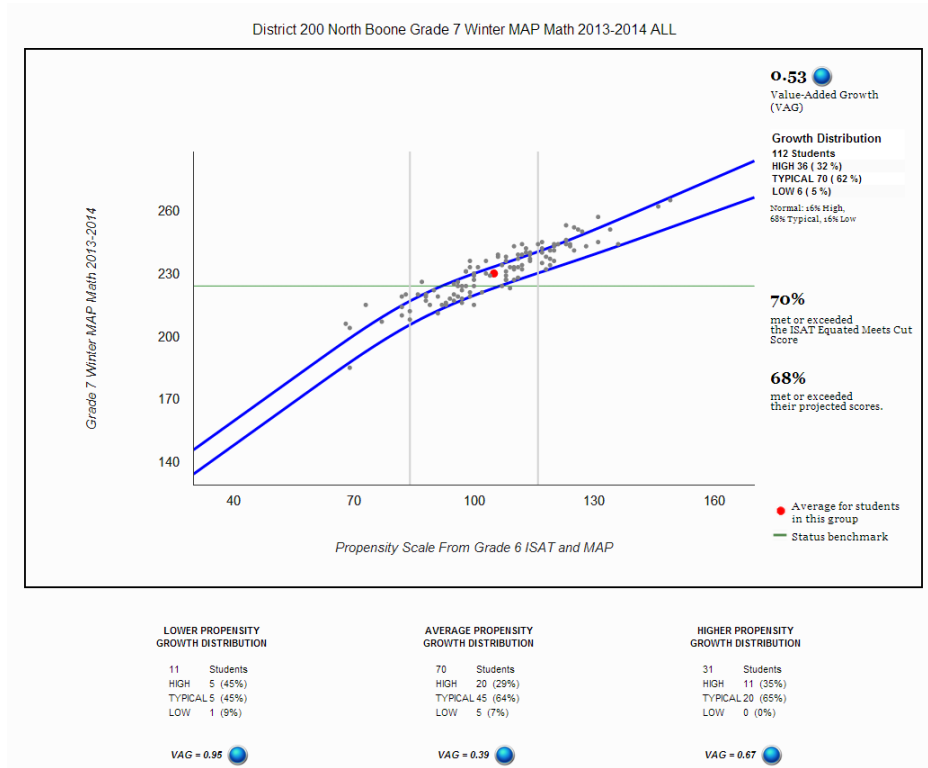
City - County Coordinating Meeting

Dr. Houselog and I were invited to the Belvidere/Boone County City/County Coordinating meeting to address school issues. We received a nice compliment about how North Boone is the best district to deal with related to mental health issues from one of the people on the regional mental health board. I think that says a lot about our student services team and they have been a great group under Kim Moore's direction and now under Melissa Geyman's lead. We spent much of the time discussing budget issues and our relationship with law enforcement.

ECRA Achievement Data

According to the ECRA data for the Fall to Winter period this year, the only grade level where student growth exceeded projections on MAP scores in both reading and math was 7th grade, which I strongly believe is tied to the 1:1 initiative in that grade. The 9th graders also exceeded projections in math, but not in reading. Except for 4th grade math and 5th grade math all other grade levels made projected growth. The charts below compare 7th and 8th grade performance. Both are good, but the 7th grade data shows exceptional performance.

According to ASCD (American Society for Curriculum Development), 96% of US teachers feel digital technologies allow students to share their work with a wider and more varied audience.



Math Interventionalist

Below is a summary of the impact of the K-4 math interventionist at Capron during the last quarter. Number of students who tested below the 25% national norm at their grade level in January:

Kindergarten - 8 Students - 3 Now Above 25% - 2 Now Above 50% - 3 Now Above 75%
1st Grade - 8 Students - 1 Now Above 25% - 1 Now Above 50% - 6 Prog. Toward Goal of 25%
2nd Grade - 3 Students - 1 Now Above 75% - 2 Prog. Toward Goal of 25%
3rd Grade - 4 Students - 3 Near 25% - 1 Above 50%
4th Grade - 8 Students - 3 Now Above 25% - 1 Now Above 50% - 1 Now Above 75% - 3 Prog. Toward Goal of 25%

This position has definitely been a positive addition to the district through Title I funding. Additionally, I feel Ms. Hungerford has done an excellent job in this role. If grant funding permits, I would like to bring this position back next fall. The early intervention makes a significant difference, which was one of the reasons for retaining the two K-4 reading specialists in lieu of the two middle school social studies positions.

Elementary Enrollment

We have a number of variables continuing to work their magic on our elementary class numbers. We have sent a survey home in grades K-6 to try to better predict our numbers for next year before making any staffing changes. We also had a couple of staff members offer some alternative staffing ideas which the administration will give due consideration as we work on our final staffing recommendations.

Curriculum Scope and Sequence

A couple of issues recently raised have required a more complete review of a number of long standing curriculum practices. For instance, the Regional Office has identified that the constitution tests normally taken at NBMS actually don't meet the graduation requirement as outlined by the state. They need to be taken during a student's high school career. Another issue was the unilateral removal of the research paper requirement at NBHS. I plan to work with the principals to organize a complete review of the district's scope and sequence in each curricular area over the next academic year to ensure we are completely aligned with the Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards and to ensure that we eliminate wasteful or unnecessary duplication in other areas of the curriculum.

SB 16 Information

According to the ISBE, the proposed allocation structure under SB 16 would net North Boone about 4.70% additional funding than under the current funding or an additional \$226,121 to our GSA and transportation funding. However, it isn't clear if there would also be a change to transportation funding. The complete presentation from Senator Manar is attached. Also attached is a letter from the region's superintendents to the local representatives and senators regarding school funding in general.

Boone County Special Education Cooperative

District 100 has made some indications that they may wish to retain the current BCSEC Building. I will let you know more when I receive additional information.

Health Insurance Information

Our insurance brokers have given us our initial rate renewal information and the initial renewal rate was a bit over 7% although our claims actually decreased again from last year. Our initial projections anticipated a 10% increase, so we may be a few dollars ahead in this issue.

Financial Software

We are making progress regarding the implementation of the new financial software. Kathy Gustafson is doing a great job of managing the process.

Special Olympics

The Young Athletes program at Poplar Grove Elementary on April 24 went extremely well. This was the first year of the program and I think the students really enjoyed themselves. A special thanks to all of the special education and physical education teachers, parents and NBHS student volunteers who helped to ensure that our youngest students had a great experience.



Sales Tax Update

We have been informed that the ROE is anticipating getting its first set of funds through the School Construction Sales Tax shortly. We anticipate receiving about \$100,000 during this fiscal year from the tax.

Capital Development Board

Kelly Holsker has been working with the Capital Development Board to finalize the funding we are authorized. The architect who came to review our projects in May 2011 was all encompassing in his review. The people we are currently working with are more restrictive in what they will accept towards the grant. Currently, those differing perspectives may mean a difference of up to nearly \$5 million in what we finally receive from the CDB.