

PARCC Testing

PARCC testing is currently being conducted. It is extremely time and personnel consuming at this point. We have had one parent at PGE ask to opt out. Unfortunately, the ROE and the ISBE have both stated that parents do not have the right to opt their children out of the PARCC tests.

Governor's Presentation

About 200 superintendents heard Governor Rauner speak on March 6 about his views on education and how he would like to move Illinois forward. He seems committed to providing additional funding for education, but currently any additional funding of education will have to come at a cost to other programs. He has acknowledged that the current GSA formula is not adequate. One of the more interesting points came from Jim Broadway who spoke after the governor. Broadway gave the example that the East St. Louis district has a take rate of about 7.5 and generates about \$1000 per student with that rate. Meanwhile High School District 214's tax rate is at 1.83 and generates over \$18,000 per student. Clearly, the reliance on the property tax rate creates an inequitable system. The Governor's handouts are attached.

Updated PMA Projections

Mr. Carr had PMA update their January projections based on the recommendations in the Governor's budget address and the additional staffing we are projecting at NBHS due to course selections. They are attached.

PGE Afterschool Options

As noted earlier, the PG Methodist Church is closing their afterschool program at the end of this year. We are trying to solicit a partner to provide similar programming, but at this point have not had anyone commit to offering such a program. I would hope to have a solution to suggest by the next Board meeting. If the Board would like to offer the program under the district's auspices, let me know. Our initial projections would be that a district program would either lose money or be too expensive for most of our parents to participate due to the constraints of the Affordable Health Care Act.

Town Hall Meetings/Special Meetings Regarding the Athletic Stadium Project

Each of the first two meetings netted about 25 to 30 attendees. The presentations are available on the district's website. One of the major issues brought up seems to be whether or not football will continue as a sport and the related concern that the stadium will not be needed when the IHSA eliminates football. That seems unrealistic, but if football would be eliminated as the IHSA's marquee sport, it seems all the more necessary to have proper facilities in place to support soccer and track which would certainly see increases in participation and spectator interest. The other issue seems to be the fallacy that building projects cannot be completed except through using Sales Tax funds. In fact, the vast majority of projects, have been completed using other revenue sources.

Field Maintenance Costs

One of the topics that has come up is the cost of ongoing maintenance of the current fields. A turf field's life span is projected at 10 to 12 years. The University of Wisconsin replaces their field every eight years according to Mr. Carr. However, we probably don't need to anticipate the same replacement cycle as a Big Ten University. Mr. Hubert has on several occasions articulated that he feels that we could earn significant rental income from renting a turf field to area and regional football or soccer groups. That is a variable that hasn't been considered. Currently, we spend about \$26,400 per year on field maintenance. During the 2013-2014 School Year, the materials costs, paint, chemicals, equipment parts, were slightly over \$15,000 and labor was estimated at \$11,000. It is important to remember, that the majority of the labor caring for our varsity fields is donated. Just the pain for line striping cost the district \$4810 in FY2014. This also doesn't take into consideration the cost of the one mower which is only used on the current football field. Attached is detail of those costs.

Stadium Information

In a quick review of the Wold 2011 stadium proposal, many seem to want to identify the lower end of their proposal as a better number than the current proposal. In fact, just reviewing the site works piece of the proposal the 2011 estimate seems to be about \$800,000 under estimate and then includes no replacement of the 100 trees it projected to remove. Just adding that \$800,000 and then adding the \$60,000 for landscaping included in current proposals brings the bottom 2011 estimate up to \$1,967,169 based on inflation and then increases to \$3,107,169 when fencing, utilities and earthmoving are including in the consideration in today's dollars. That price would not include a new concessions building nor would the estimate include the same level of seating as the current proposal. The upper end of the Wold estimate adjusted for site work and fencing would exceed \$4.6 million without a concession stand.

Elementary Mascots

The second version of the Elementary Mascot survey has been completed. It gathered over 600 responses which is more than ever previously received. Some of the Facebook posts shared by the elementary principals would indicate that some went out of their way to skew the results. Other posts articulated how to try to take the survey multiple times from a single device. It is important to remember, that this was an issue brought forward by the PGE PTO and not by the administration. Then the issue was addressed at each elementary PTO and there were no concerns raised at that time. Some MES parents continue to claim that no such conversations happened, but Ms. McCrystal identified the topic was discussed at PTO meetings on September 22 and November 10. Mr. Hubert then shared the issue at the November Parent Communication Committee meeting and again, all were in favor of moving forward with unifying the mascot. The original survey completed in November 2014 was in favor of merging the mascots. The results of both surveys are attached.

Middle School Exploratory Courses

We surveyed current 6th and 7th grade students about their desired exploratory options and see significant interest in adding a Family and Consumer Science Course into the mix for the 2016 Academic Year. The administration is currently working with CEANCI to see if there is a piece of the potential cost that they can cover through vocational grants. The results are attached.

NBHS GPA and Class Rank

There have been some parent concerns raised that our current class rank system rewards students who take fewer classes. This is a concern that the NBHS administrators are reviewing. They will potentially bring a recommendation for change to the Policy Committee in April.

OMA Issue

There has been some confusion about the Open Meetings Act and whether or not three board members can be at a meeting that discusses school business. The short answer is that can be construed as a violation of the OMA and that such groupings should be avoided.