

Superintendent's Report

December 15, 2014

Winter Concert

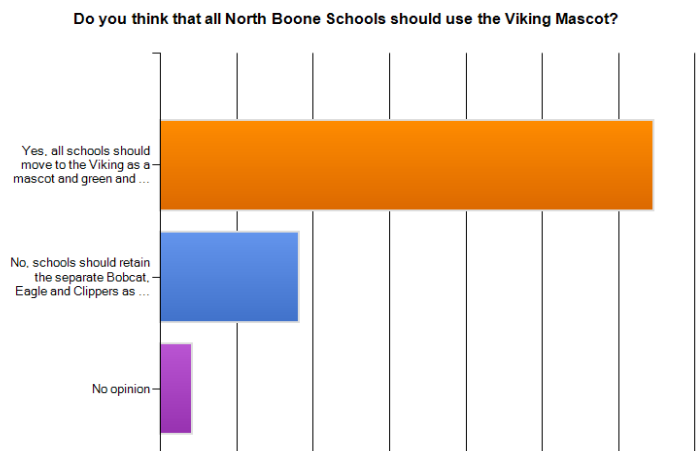
The NBHS Winter Concert was held on December 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The student musicians did an excellent job. For Mr. Flynn's first outing as the director, the concert was really well done. He also reminded the audience that they could become a music booster to help support replacing instruments, uniforms, etc. As noted below, the NBMS Concert will be on December 16.

NBHS Dance Team

The NBHS Dance team performed at the opening home Boy's Basketball game last week. The dance team includes about 20 NBHS students and is coached by Stacey Alvarez. A video of their first high school performance is available online.

Elementary Mascot Survey

Just over 180 people took time to complete the K-4 mascot survey with the overwhelming proportion of them agreeing to move to a single mascot for the entire district. Unless the Board has any concerns, the administration will move to implement this change which was raised by parents. The complete results are attached.



Upcoming NBUE/MS Events

Tuesday will be the NBUE/NBMS Fine Arts night.

At 5pm in Lab 6 of the Middle school we will be having our inaugural film festival with the Art show and Band and Choir concert starting at 6 pm in the Middle School Gym. Wednesday will be the NBMS/NBUE Family Reading night from 6-7:30 at NBUE. There will be many activities for families to enjoy. We will be reading a story and making a snack, learning about computer reading activities, wrapping books as donations for needy kids, writing letters to Santa for the make-a wish foundation, having a writing "snowball fight", writing a blackout poem, hearing students own poems and even opening up the book fair. The end of the evening will culminate with a book walk and giving away a cookie basket!

Home Technology Survey

Of the approximately 250 surveys that were completed to the point they returned useful information, only 22 families identified they didn't have home Internet access and of those all but five reported having access in another form. Three of those families completed for survey in English and two in Spanish.

Outside Instructional Audit of NBUE & NBMS

As mentioned earlier, we had some observers onsite at NBMS & UE on Monday and Tuesday of last week to review our program. The NBUE is serving as a control in a study being underwritten by Amplify which is providing integrated curriculum to a similar district in Michigan. They will return for a second visit in the spring.

Additional Staffing Request for PGE Office

Attached is Mrs. Crawford's request for additional office staff at PGE. When I included this topic in a weekly update, I only heard back from one member of the Board. That member asked we consider a part time position as a first step and not add a second full time secretary. Please let me know how you would like me to proceed.

Payroll Audit Update

The Morrissey Agency has articulated that the audit is taking them much more time than they anticipated. They haven't given us an update lately, but one of the principal's has been out sick as well. After completing the TRS report this fall, the TRS staff feel that we overpaid a former teacher about \$1042 for last year. Do you want us to ask that person to return the difference within the 30 day TRS window or just wait and manage it as part of the Payroll Audit process?

Audit

Brenda Zellner has spent a great deal of time working on cleaning up the final audit issues with the auditing firm. The auditors were in the building again on Thursday to try to finally finalize the 2014 audit.

Communications

According to the most recent weekly Facebook Page, we reached over 3000 accounts during the week of December 1 to 7. Over 400 people commented or liked NBCUSD posts during the week. Some of this is tied to the Winter Concerts and similar events, but we are generally averaging about 1500 connections per week and considering a district with 800 households, that is a nice return. NBHS has created a Facebook Page as well. It is available at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/North-Boone-High-School/728153220613887?ref=bookmarks>. The NBMS/UE has had a Facebook page since August.



North Boone CUSD 200
Build Audience - Promote Page

LAST WEEK

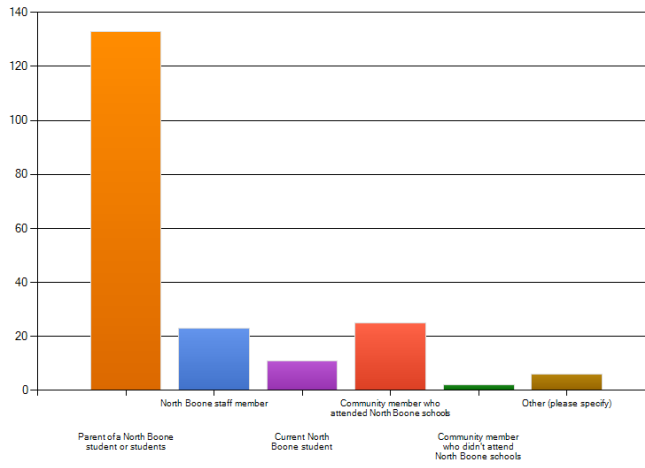
Total Page Likes	574
New Likes	10
Weekly Total Reach	3,100
People Engaged	424

ISLMA Newsletter

Jane Lenser was featured in the Winter Issue of the Illinois School Library Media Association newsletter for the award she won due to the "Books on Wheels" project she managed over the summer.

The following are the results of the Elementary Mascot Survey which was completed on 12/10/2014

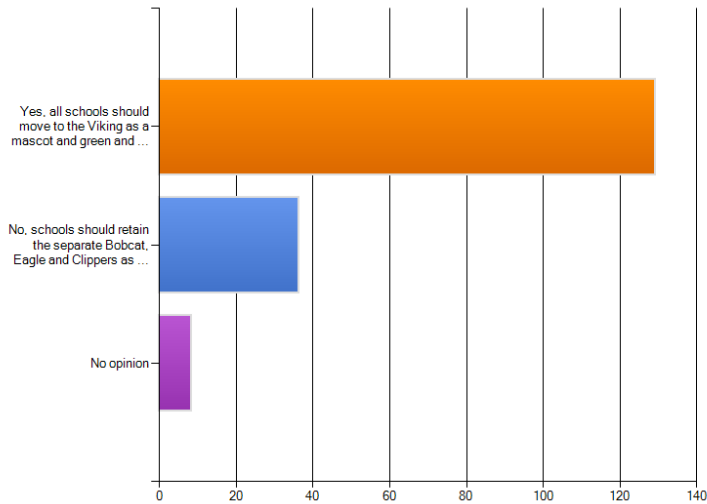
Please choose the answer that best describes your relationship to North Boone.



2. Which elementary school(s) do/did you or your children attend? [Create Chart](#) [Download](#)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Capron	22.5%	31
Manchester	24.6%	34
North Boone	27.5%	38
Poplar Grove	51.4%	71
answered question		138
skipped question		45

Do you think that all North Boone Schools should use the Viking Mascot?



Answers to:

Please provide any other input regarding the potential elimination of the separate K-4 mascots.

Each school needs and deserves their individuality. It is silly to change something that is working. My son is proud to be an Eagle. I was and still am proud of being a Bobcat, but that stays with us even as we grow older and become Vikings. I can't understand why people want to spend the money to change something that should be left as is.

As a District 100 family I enjoy referring to ourselves at Bucs at the middle school level. I wish our elementary schools would do that as well.

Keep it uniform throughout all the schools!

This seems like an insignificant issue in the grand scheme of things.

Do it!!!!!! Life would be so much easier especially when dealing with kids at different schools.

I think the younger kids in Capron would relate better to the Viking instead of the Clipper ship. They can be a Lady Vike or a Viking.

Yes and no I think the grade schools should keep there's but all the others be Vikings. But I would be upset if it all was the same

Being a Viking should be a right of passage when entering high school.

Since there are no sports teams affiliated with the k-4 buildings I see no reason to eliminate their mascot, however I do feel once the kids from the 3 different schools merge to one school and will be together from there on out (5-12) that they should infact all take on Vikings as their mascot. For instance the UE needs to get rid of the jaguar connection all together (gym).

I don't think there is anything wrong with elementaries keeping their own mascots. It's not necessary to be under the high school mascot only. Many other districts have elem. Schools with their own identities. As far as using mascots in spirit wear etc, the reality is that the kids will grow out of the clothes regardless by the time they reach the upper grades. Keep tge the mascots as they are!

Little Vikes

Will make it more,popular that the district is United as a family orientated community

The school district doesn't have any athletics in the k-4 age groups. Why change it? I don't feel any improvements will be made in the gymnasiums to switch them over to Viking colors/theme. On a separate note, NBYS uses Vikings as their mascot. They are not affiliated with the school and have kids in the program from Belvidere, Harvard, etc... My vote is to keep it the way it is. If you attend a North Boone School, you are a Viking.

they should stay the same as they are for all the elementary schools because or they would have to change all the clippers stuff in Capron to vikings and that could become quite pricey.

I feel it will bring students closer together if they all started out as Vikings than different mascots and basically be considered as enemies.

My sons flag football team called themselves the Vikings. Its what the kids relate to. They don't have 'team' sports at the K-4 level. I don't feel they need a school mascot.

My kids have actually asked why all the schools aren't Vikings. They strongly associate the Viking mascot with the whole district rather than just the middle school and high school.

I feel it allows the children more sense of pride for their schools having a unique mascot for each school. I also fee changing mascots is in a way a right of passage.

School spirit wear with elementary school names should still be offered without the mascot.

I think it makes more sense to have all schools in the district have the same mascot. It promotes school spirit & makes the younger kids feel like they're a part of something.

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This would unite the school district.

Each school needs it's own identity. The current mascot system has been in place for many, many years and works just fine.

My son was so excited to go to the upper because then he'd finally be a Viking. The understanding of school spirit was instilled during K-4 but being a Viking was about being old enough, being proud (not just having your mom tell you it's spirit day where this shirt) I think the upper and middle school students should be polled on this decision since it's taking away a kind of passage of theirs. It shouldn't be about saving parents money because they have to rebuy stuff! Kids grow and you'll have to rebuy anyways, PLUS it raises funds for their schools!!

I feel that it will unify the schools and allow the students to use their spirit wear no matter which school they attend.

Easier and who remembers they were a bobcat etc in grade school when in sports....

Every school needs their own identity. Every school from elementary middle and high school had their own mascot that I attended. Gives school more ability to raise funds for state shortfall of funding

I think it'd be easier for spirit wear & it just makes sense.

NORTH BOONE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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December 10, 2014

Dear Dr. Baule,

I am requesting additional assistance in the main office to assist Mrs. Mary Piskie with all of the tasks that she is required to complete as the school secretary. We now have 307 students in this building, including several with severe challenges. Mrs. Piskie and I have tried to find ways to have other support staff assist with the office, but with their hours only being 5.75 per day, we need each assistant to be working with their students at all times. Below you will find several reasons why extra help is needed. Please contact me if you need any additional information or have any questions.

- Movement of students in and out of PGE (7 moving into district and 4 moving out during November 10 – 21) This requires extensive time with families and paperwork to be verified and completed.
- Verification of lunch accounts due to errors in lunch room i.e. students taking someone else's cards , errors in entering amounts of student deposits from lunchroom
- Training of new staff to teach them Subfinder, phone system, use of equipment, where things are located in the building, etc.
- Covering 2 hours of nursing time while nurse is 1:1 with a student's daily medical procedure
- The PGE Tardy Policy requires time to track and process data, notify parents of excessive tardiness, and we are also promoting a Perfect Attendance Award each month that requires additional tracking of data and award preparation
- Due to the population of our building, we are always looking to have students placed in the least restrictive environment – this sometimes requires a student to be re-enrolled in a different classroom. This is very time consuming as attendance needs to be cleared and re-entered on a daily basis for the new classroom.
- Supervising students and contacting parents when students are not picked up at the end of the day – an average of 10 students per week
- Single family homes are on the increase. In the last year we have gone from 10 to 24 students who need an extra copy of reports sent to other parent.
- More families are using payment plans which require sending invoice reminders and updating accounts more frequently.
- Sub positions are not filling frequently (almost daily). This requires having to call to find someone or helping to get other subs/staff moved around to cover.
- Mrs. Piskie is trained in CPI techniques. For the last 5 years, she has served as a back-up when students are displaying threatening behaviors.

- Absence report for staff is time-consuming due to large number of staff. This becomes very difficult to complete with constant interruptions and cannot be completed in a confidential manner.
- Student records have specific guidelines for what is allowed in each section. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade records are not changed to new format.
- When license scanning becomes active, Mrs. Piskie will have to complete this task right then and there to allow visitors in the building. This will increase interruptions in completing regular daily tasks.
- Long distance phone service for some area codes is only available on the office phone. When staff needs to call a long distance number, Mrs. Piskie has to leave her desk so that staff may use her phone and computer.
- PGE sends backpacks of food home with needy students each Friday. Mrs. Piskie assists or completes the task of filling backpacks with food.

After reviewing the above list, you will see that some tasks are new to our building in the last year. Others have been ongoing without an opportunity to get them completed entirely. We strive to run an efficient office, but find it very difficult when tasks cannot be completed with the current staff.

Above all, Mrs. Piskie is a very hard-working employee. She works above and beyond to complete the tasks assigned to her. With 307 students and the list of tasks she is asked to complete, I hope that you will consider allowing us another support employee in the office.

Thank you!
Kristi Crawford