

Student Cheering Section

From the Oregon Superintendent: *Thought I would pass on to you, your student cheering section was outstanding on Friday night. They represented their school and the district with tremendous spirit but remained appropriate throughout the contest.* I have to agree our students have been doing a great job representing us in the stands, sidelines and on the field so far this year.

Enrollment

This year's enrollment is similar to last year's with a few shifts. We are waiting to see if NBMS and NBHS enrollment is actually increasing or will some students be no shows on day one. The informal enrollment number from August 6 was 1692. Our August 31 number was 1751. We anticipate a few more students before Oct. 1.

iFiber

Randy Porter and I met with Ken Terrinoni and the NIU iFiber representative in early August to discuss the potential option for expanding our bandwidth through their auspices. We haven't received a response yet from the iFiber Board. Currently, we have 20Mbps of up/down bandwidth, but we need more. We increased from 10 Mbps last year.

Agriculture Grant

Sarah Timmons did apply for an ISBE Ag Education Grant that we should know about shortly. We also have a few students from other schools starting to attend our Ag classes which will generate some additional funding through CEANCI. Over time, hopefully this will become a nice additional funding source.

Food Service Menus

Janice Burmeister is working to get our menu plans certified under the new nutritional guidelines promulgated this year. That will allow us to claim an additional 6 cents per meal in reimbursement.

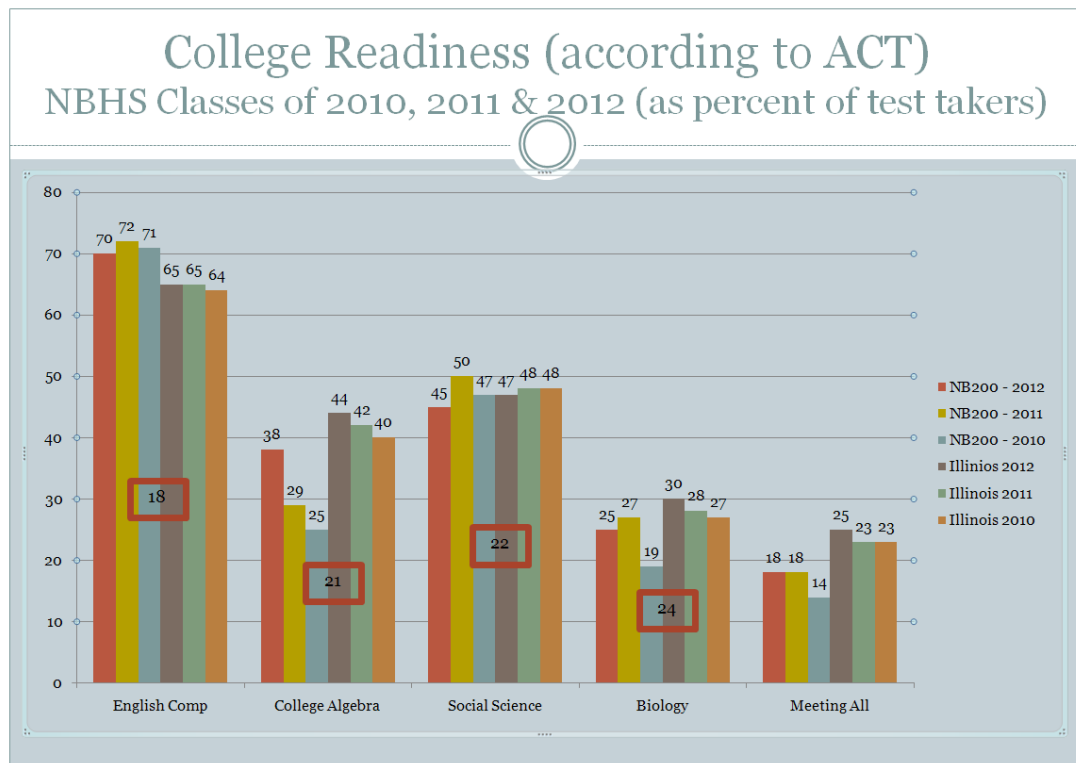
Sales Tax Referendum

Do you wish to support a resolution in favor of the Sales Tax question on the November ballot?

The *RRStar* has asked what stance the Board is planning to take. I haven't given them a direct answer. We could also conduct a non-scientific survey via the web, etc. to see what the community in general is thinking on the issue.

ACT Scores

Below is a summary of the ACT portion of the PSAE data we received late last month. As mentioned in the 8/24/12 update, our PSAE scores overall dropped from 155 to 153 in reading and 156 to 151 in math (even though the ACT math went up). Science dropped from 157 to 156. The ACT scores are below in relationship to college readiness. The score in the red box in each subject area is the minimum score require to be identified as "college ready." Where it is only 18 for English, it is 24 for science, which is a huge bone of contention between many high school leaders and the ACT test people. I do believe that the ACT test people are closer to the truth than the apologists. These numbers will appear on the new School Report Cards starting in 2013.



NCLB Issues for Poplar Grove and NBUE

Since Poplar Grove and NBUE have both failed to meet AYP for two years in a row, they are under a federal mandate to offer school choice. ISBE had hoped to get a waiver to not implement those sanctions, but they didn't get one. So, we will be sending a letter to parents at Poplar Grove offering them the opportunity to attend Manchester, which did make AYP this year. Capron did not make AYP in reading, so we can't send students there. For NBUE, I have asked Kinnikinnick, South Beloit and Belvidere if they wanted to take our students under the school choice program, but they have all politely declined to do so. At this point, I am still waiting to hear back from the ISBE about our next steps. At NBUE, we may be required to pay for supplemental educational services (SES) (tutoring) a year early, e.g. this year.

Pension System Changes

I attended the Suburban Superintendents' meeting in Oak Brook last Friday and we heard from several sources including Sen. Edward Maloney (D-18), Renée Kosel (R-81), Peg Agnos (LEND legislative lobbyist), and we should anticipate pension reform in the form of the state giving districts the responsibility for the entire cost of TRS in the same way we currently fund IMRF. This might take effect in July 2013 for all employees or at the other extreme only impact new hires, etc. It appears it will happen in some form, most likely after January 1 when only a simple majority will be required.