

## **Superintendent's Report**

**May 6, 2013**

### **Prom**

The Class of 2014 hosted prom last weekend at the Abbey near Lake Geneva, WI. The class and their sponsor, Carrie Weiffenbach, did an exceptional job in planning. The prom was one of the best I have ever been to and our students handled themselves like the exceptional young men and women that they are. For those following royalty, Keerstin Fitzpatrick was named Queen and Luis Rivera was named King.



### **A+ Run for Education**

The run to benefit the North Boone Education Foundation is being held Saturday May 4. Currently, we have about 60 participants signed up, but Dr. Belcastro is anticipating more signing up prior to the race itself. We are hoping to raise a couple thousand dollars for the Foundation. The ESL Parents hosted a Cinco de Mayo Celebration on May 4 as well.



### **RAMP Wheel-a-thon**

NBHS again sent a team to the RAMP Wheel-a-thon, which is one of their major fund raisers during the year. I didn't hear how the team did this year, but Kim Moore sent me several pictures, one of which is to the right.

### **NBHS Spring Concert**

The NBHS Musical was held last Wednesday evening May 1. The students and Ms. Kurnat did an excellent job. The concert space was completely filled with a number of people having to stand.

### **Donations**

Deanna Bailey, Dianne (Diamond) Poffenberger, and Myrna Johnson are all alum from the class of 1959. Deanna's mother recently passed and a donation was made to North Boone High School in Vivian Bailey's name. Because all three young ladies were involved in music while at North Boone, the donation in honor of Deanna's mother was made to the music program. The three ladies are pictured below with Ms. Marybeth Kurnat, NBHS band director.



Jane Lenser also received a \$100 donation from Woodman's for the Summer Library Program this week.

### **Chamber Networking Lunch**

Joe Sweeny spoke on networking at a Chamber Lunch on April 30. We were able to arrange to take a group of business students to the event free of charge thanks to the graciousness of the Chamber director. I believe that the students who participated represented the district well and enjoyed the event.

### **Summer School**

We will be running an Extended School Year (ESY) Program for some of our special needs children as well as an online credit recovery program for students in grades 5-12. The credit recovery program will run through June and the ESY program will be split between June and August. Camp Invention, an upper elementary enrichment program, will be run at Poplar Grove the week of June 10.

### **Soup Kitchen**

The recent homeless survey came up with 177 homeless living in Boone County and 60 of those being literally homeless. Over half of the total are children. The Boone County Homeless Project

was looking for a place to open a soup kitchen in Capron which is disproportionately represented among the homeless population. I reached out to the director about establishing Capron School for feeding the hungry of northern Boone County. They would like to begin by serving two evenings a week. They would like to begin in June after school is out, but due to construction issues at Capron, it would be more likely to be July. We have spoken about the key issues, including security and the safety of children and will meet formally to plan if the Board is in favor of this project. The Boone County Food Pantry is on board to provide the food. The Homeless Project will need to line up volunteers to cook, serve, and clean up but are hoping to hire a head cook through grant funding. Ms. Loverridge's letter explaining her proposal is attached. My understanding from the Homeless Project is that no other entity has come forward to offer a location. At this point, I have had one call from a parent against this project due to safety concerns.

### **CPS v. Downstate Funding**

Attached is a letter and materials from Senator Dave Syverson relating to the way various ISBE programs are funded. The short version is that CPS tends to get block funding that is a higher percentage of the total in most areas of state aid. This came up in relationship to the TRS funding issue where Chicago politicians are arguing that Chicago shouldn't have to shoulder any of the pension costs for TRS since they already have to fund the Chicago Teachers Pension system. WTOO seems to be working on a story about this.

### **Pension Reform**

Attached is a proposal from the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability regarding how to fully fund the pensions without modifying benefits. Speaker Madigan recently released his own pension plan as well.

### **Response to Intervention (RtI)**

Attached is my report on the development of the RtI program in the district and the initial review of its effectiveness. We have made significant progress regarding a true implementation of RtI within the district, but we still have more work to do, particularly at the high school level. Staffing and flexibility in scheduling are key inhibitors to a more robust implementation. Hiring

the math interventionist this spring was helpful, but as it is a grant funded position, we don't anticipate being able to continue it for the fall.

### **Spanish for Staff**

We had approximately 16 staff members complete the Spanish course that was held throughout the semester on Tuesday evenings. I think that is was well done. I was particularly impressed in how serious most of the participants took the course. Teacher assistants and secretaries made up the majority of the group with a few teachers, administrators and a nurse rounding out the group. I will try to gauge the interest in a fall class in the next couple of weeks.

### **Recognition Reception**

As a reminder, we will be holding our annual Recognition Reception on May 16 at NBUE from 3:30 to 4:30. We have three retirees to recognize along with Dr. Olds and many staff who have earned years of service awards. Please plan to attend. If you would like to be involved in handing out some of the awards, please let me know.