

MAP Testing

The first complete iteration of MAP testing has been completed and I believe that it went extremely well. Kristi Crawford is currently working on distributing the reports from the first round of testing to principals and staff. Teachers sent the individual student scores home with progress reports last week.

Regional Office's Compliance Review

The results from the ROE's compliance visit should be available shortly. I have to take a moment to mention that without Dianne Mulligan's efforts to prepare for the review, the visit would have been much more painful. She did an incredible job of organizing all of the materials for the review.

My initial reaction to the visit is that they will find concern with our lack of articulated curriculum, particularly at the elementary level. Some of our personnel records are not complete. Those need to be fixed prior to the end of April. There are also a couple of certification issues that they identified.

State's Attorney

I am scheduled to meet with the State's Attorney on Monday, February 28, to discuss the development of a county truancy ordinance that would give us some additional teeth in working with students who develop attendance issues. We will also be discussing gang contracts for students who have gang issues and the sexting procedures that PRESS recently sent to us. We have also been asked to provide representation on the State's Attorney's Gang Task Force. Their next meeting will be March 7 at 6:00 p.m. if anyone is interested in attending, please let me know.

Combined Purchasing, etc.

I did meet with the Poplar Grove Village Finance committee. I am working on meeting with Jeff Strate from the Village to determine next steps. The committee seems eager to work with us. I will keep you up to date as I learn more.

Power School Update

Power School is still a work in progress, but we believe we have solved all of the outstanding attendance issues at this time. Similarly, we have worked out the fee issues as much as possible. There are a few challenges inherent to the system. Tracey Peed (NBHS) and Kathy Gustafson will be at Power School University this week.

Summer School Opportunities

We are going to try to offer Camp Invention, a science enrichment camp for upper elementary and middle school student, at Poplar Grove the Week of June 20. This will be a tuition-based program. Allison Louis will be the director for Camp Invention. The summer school proposals for Grades 5-12, ESL and Special Ed ESY are attached for your review. The ESL program will be paid for out of grant funding. The Grades 5-12 program is for credit recovery and will help students meet promotion and graduation time lines. The Extended School Year program is

required based upon student IEPs. In past years, this was done by the BCSEC for early childhood students.

Technology Plan

Sharon Olds and Jane Lenser have completed the work on the district's required Technology Plan for the ISBE. We will hear shortly if it will be approved. The current rumor is the state plans to reject all of them in order to justify their jobs at the ISBE.

Math Audit

The Math Committee has reviewed the findings of the math audit. Attached are their initial recommendations. Clearly, we will need to develop a stronger math program over the next couple of years. I believe that the observations of the math staff will be a strong next step in developing a better math program.

Online Application Process

Last summer during prime teacher job hunting season, we had five viable special education candidates for two positions. A week ago, we posted a single vacancy for the rest of this school year and we have over 50 applications to date. The online application process should help deepen our candidate pool and provide access to more qualified candidates.

CIC Money Raised

Attached is an update on the funds generated through the Community Involvement Committee.

NBEA Bargaining

I am still waiting to hear back about initial bargaining dates and times from the NBEA.