

Homecoming

Homecoming went well. The students were extremely productive and positive throughout the week's activities. Mrs. Troller was the grand marshal of the parade. The homecoming court included the following:

Freshman attendants	Amanda Huffar & Jack Zwart
Sophomore attendants	Melinda Thie & Wes Timpe
Juniors attendants	Alexandra Wood & Nathan Moore

Court

Julia Perez & Stetson Magnuson
Melanie Krawczyk & Mitch Smith
Cat Crawford & Armon Kennedy
Amelia Bilsley & Kevin Piskie
Queen-Kayla Glickenberg & King-Icle Freeland

King and queen Bio's

Kayla is the daughter of Joe and Maureen Glickenberg and is involved in band, Northern Lights choir, cross country and track. She enjoys dancing and hanging out with her friends. Kayla plans to go to college and major in special education.

Icle is the son of Todd and Debra Freeland. He is involved in track, hockey, lacrosse and National Honor Society. He wants to go to college and play NCAA lacrosse. During his free time he likes hanging out with his friends.

Governor's Consolidation Efforts

Lt. Governor Sheila Simon will lead a state commission charged with cutting school district administration costs and redirecting those tax dollars to students and classrooms, thanks to legislation signed today by Governor Quinn. Simon's Classrooms First Commission will study how districts can improve educational opportunities, reduce duplicative spending, and lower the tax burden through shared services, consolidation or other realignment options. HB 1216 calls for recommendations to be delivered to the Governor and General Assembly by July 1, 2012.

Simon's Classrooms First Commission is a 20-member team with participation from various stakeholder groups that represent teachers, school boards, principals, superintendents, parents and urban, suburban and rural areas. Community input will be a cornerstone of the commission, with public comments solicited at hearings across the state and online, Simon said. To coordinate the commission's research and report, Simon has tapped Dr. Lynne Haefele, a research associate from the Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University.

Illinois's Race to the Top Application

Illinois is one of the nine states eligible and the ISBE is developing an application. If successful, we would receive about \$28 million, and possibly more if any of the other finalist states do not apply (South Carolina has already indicated it will not apply for its potential share of these RTTT

funds.) (from State Supt. Report). If Illinois gets funding, that may have an impact on when we need to implement a new teacher evaluation instrument.

School Construction Sales Tax

SB 2170 to amend the County School Facilities Sales Tax Law! Governor Quinn signed the PA 97-0542 into law on August 23rd. PA 97-0542 will improve the ability for school districts to access and use this important new revenue source. Some of the most significant changes brought about by the PA 97-0542 are:

1. The County Board will no longer have a role in putting the sales tax question on the ballot or voting to impose the amount of the tax. The Regional Office of Education will now take on the role of filing the ballot question with the County Clerk after approval of the ballot question by local school boards.
2. Clarifies that the sales tax can be used to refinance, abate or pay off bonds previously sold for school facility purposes to provide property tax relief.
3. Requires the imposition of a school facility sales tax in a county if a majority of electors of the county have approved a proposition for the tax. Whatever the voters approve will put in effect.

The deadline to put the sales tax on the ballot for the March 20, 2012 election would be December 19, 2011. As mentioned earlier, the ROE is hosting a meeting on this program on October 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Administrative Compensation Report

As required by law, the administrative compensation is detailed on the attached sheet. You will notice Mrs. Troller's salary increased due to her retirement contract which is based upon the current teacher contract language. Mr. Hubert received an increase based on extending his contract from 200 to 220 days. His per diem rate of compensation actually decreased. All other returning salaries were frozen at the 2010 level. So, all other administrators have not received any increase in salary since 2009.

EPA Certificate of Recognition

We received a certificate of recognition from the US EPA for our changes to the computer network in order to reduce our carbon emissions. The certificate was award in April 2011, but we received notice of the recognition last month.

Enrollment

This year's enrollment is similar to last year's with a few shifts. Capron has fewer children in the primary grades and Manchester picked up enough additional kindergarteners to necessitate a second section. We also had to add an additional Pre-K assistant for the Early Childhood program. Most of the area districts are reporting a slight drop in enrollment.

Monsanto Grant

This spring we were nominated to apply for a grant through Monsanto due to being nominated by a number of local farm families including Amy Hildebrand, Mike Greenlee and Ed

Mulholland. Jane Lenser and Chris Troller wrote the grant for technology to support the agriculture and science programs at NBHS. We anticipate being officially notified of winning a \$10,000 grant shortly. There is a potential for an Oct. 7 award ceremony.

Class of 2011 Graduation Rate

The ISBE originally had an inaccurate graduation rate on our school report card. However, it does look like that has been updated based upon my conversations with the ISBE. Attached is the summary of the progress of the Class of 2011 towards graduation. So you can better understand how that rate was calculated.

NBMS Lunch

There were concerns raised about the amount of time 5th & 6th graders had to eat lunch this year. We did move the scheduled lunch times five minutes earlier than they were originally scheduled. We also have a fifth grade class that lost their lunch cards, so until replacements are obtained, that slowed the lunch line down. We also changed from having the 5th graders self-serve fruit, etc. that takes more time than having the staff serve them. The Food Service menu may also reduce some menu options to streamline serving.

The biggest change is that Dr. Belcastro and Mrs. Abbeduto discovered that the clocks in the UE and MS are not synchronized and that the UE students were arriving from 3 to 7 minutes late to lunch each day according to the NBMS clocks. So, by ensuring the students arrive closer to 10:35 and not 10:40, that had allowed students more time to eat lunch as well. Sometimes as many as five to ten students have still not finished their meals when the 6th graders arrive for lunch, but there is plenty of room for them to remain and finish and one of the lunch supervisors stays back with them until they are ready to go outside.

Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant

Capron received a \$2600 grant to improve its playground through the Lowe's education grant program. We are most thankful for this type of corporate support in these difficult economic times.

North Boone Education Foundation Grants

The NB Education Foundation awarded over \$3000 to eight teacher projects for the 2011-2012 school year. They also helped support the Summer Library Hours programming for a \$500 award. Attached is a complete list of successful grant winners. Please take time to thank those donating to the NB Education Foundation.

Math Assessment Development

The Pippens were here on Monday 8/29 and 9/12 to work with the high school math teachers and then on the second day most of the 5-12 math leaders to start to refine our assessment instruments and create common core assessments for all math courses 5-12.

This was Sue Pippens' assessment of the August meeting:

We spent all day with the 8-12 mathematics teachers and Jake Hubert. We presented information on the need for common, high-quality assessments. We emphasized the importance of varying question types, not all "find the answer," asking for comparisons, error analysis, and

justifications for what the students did. They were given a rubric to use to analyze an assessment they brought from their files so they could see the areas they needed to improve. They were given work time to identify their four-to-six per semester learning targets for one or both semesters and then to write/select items for the first-semester exam in Algebra and Geometry. They were receptive to the information, and struggled with the target identification and item writing. Conversations were very positive and professionally enlightening. They are to continue what they started during the first hour or so of our next session while we catch up the 5th-7th grade teachers on best practice assessment.

The reviews from the September meeting were positive and included additional 5-7 grade math leaders as well. The Pippens will be returning in early October to meet with the staff again and hopefully complete the work toward common assessments in math 5-12. Jake Hubert has taken the lead on this work and is doing an excellent job.

New Training to be Required of Board Members

The Governor signed a law which will require school board members and other elected officials for local governments to receive training on the Open Meetings Act. Those persons who are school board members as of January 1, 2012, will have one year from that date to successfully complete the training program provided by the Attorney General's Public Access Counselor regarding the Open Meetings Act. This is an electronic training program that can be completed via the internet. After January 1, 2012, anyone who is elected or appointed to a position on a local board must complete the Open Meetings Act training within 90 days of taking the oath of office or otherwise assuming the duties of the office.