

Staff Recognition

Since the last Board meeting, several NB teachers have received outside recognition. Twenty-three teachers were nominated for the 6-12 Golden Apple Awards. The press release listing all of them is attached. A number of them were able to attend the Golden Apple Reception on November 17, 2010.

Jill Grove, Poplar Grove, received an NEA Green Across America Grant of approximately \$800. Ms. Grove's grant will involve the students of Poplar Grove in planting trees and journaling about their experiences. The focus is to use this experience to assist in developing literacy skills among the students. Ms. Grove was one of 55 recipients of the award from among over 1400 applicants.

Sharon Olds was recently asked to speak at the Aurora University's 8th Annual Dissertation Research Conference. Her topic was A Qualitative Dissertation in Progress: A Qualitative Study of the Strategic Use of Humor by Women in District Leadership and the Superintendency. Congratulations to all of the staff who bring positive recognition to the district.

Curriculum Committees

The language arts committee met November 9. One of the key issues discussed was the need for all content area teachers to embrace the need to teach to the Common Core Language Arts standards. Math is meeting Thursday, November 18. They anticipate that the Pippens will do the onsite classroom observations that are part of the math audit in February or early March. The Common Formative Assessment group met last week as well. All of the buildings have completed the training except for the UE and NBMS. They will finish that work on the December early release day. They have a concern that the staff will need significant time in order to prepare these assessments. We also spent some time discussing how the CFA process should fit into the overall district assessment plan. I shared with them a short graphical explanation of a balanced assessment model and Rick Stiggins's in depth review of why balanced assessment is important. Those are attached as well.

Technology Committee

The Technology Committee meeting was held last week as well. Minutes are attached. One of the issues addressed was the need to purchase additional computers to ensure we replace some of the district's outdated hardware. This would allow us to purchase approximately 110 additional desktop computers during the year. Slightly less than half would be directly earmarked for special education programs. We will also be purchasing about 22 laptops through a combination of ARRA funding for IDEA and CEANCI (vocational education) funding.

Strategic Planning

Thanks to everyone for completing the Strategic Planning survey. The principals and I will review your input and bring some next step suggestions to the Board in December.

Federal & State Funding

Currently, we do not have much new information about state funding other than current vouchers are being set at 100% for mandated categorical reimbursements and that transportation vouchers are being set at 70%.

PMA will be at the January Board of Education meeting to review the updated five year financial projections with the Board. If you have specific questions or scenarios that you would like to see, please let me know as soon as possible, so these can be directly addressed in the presentation. I have also been asked to review the current transportation routes, etc. and see if there are any additional efficiencies that can be garnered. I will be setting a committee up to look into that shortly. Also, the administrative team will bring forward some additional information about the extracurricular programs, the total costs of those programs and the per student cost in the next couple of months. If you would like to serve directly on either of those committees, please let me know.

The most recent Alliance Update is also attached. After this weekend's conference, we might have more up to date information to share as well.

Also attached is information from TRS regarding some claims about TRS management, etc.

Federal Mandate for Breakfast Programming

As our free and reduced lunch program numbers continue to increase, we will need to add breakfast programs for Capron, Poplar Grove and possibly the Upper Elementary in the fall. This was overlooked last year for some reason. Capron should already have a program in place. However, we may be able to obtain a waiver to put off implementation until the fall.

State Audit Report

We were recently made aware of some concerns in an ISBE audit that was done this summer of a couple of grant programs. Attached is a copy of the audit findings and of the district's response regarding the same.

North Boone Education Foundation

The North Boone Education Foundation has made the following grant awards to NBCUSD. Thank you to the Foundation for helping to support North Boone Programs.

Manchester: Tami Doetch - reading manipulatives	1440	1219	partial
NBMS : Allison Louis - Career workshop	300	250	partial
District: Jane Lenser bilingual materials	3000	800	partial
PG Megan Hughes, reading materials	150	150	full
Elementary: Josh Conkling - bowling lanes	360	360	full
NBUE: Molly Lilja - Document Camera	851	851	full
Total	6101	3630	

Boone County Gang Task Force

As you may be aware, Jake Hubert and I have been attending Gang Task Force meetings with the local law enforcement agencies and D100. Mr. Ward and Chris Troller represented North Boone at the Community Forum on Gangs last Thursday.