

In-Service Day

Friday, January 14 was an in-service day for staff. Kim Moore provided some intervention training for select staff. Most staff received training on math strategies from Kristi Crawford and Jake Hubert. Everyone heard a presentation from Julie Lewis of Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins on changes in 504 plans and special education law. Staff also had a final block of time to work on their Common Formative Assessments (CFAs). The principals and I will be expecting those to be implemented later this year. Lunch was provided by Wold Architects.

MAP Testing

The first complete iteration of MAP testing began on January 18. It should be completed at the end of this week, and the week of January 31 will provide time for makeup testing, etc. Teachers are able to get individual results within 24 hours, but the more substantive reports will be available after the testing window closes about February 5. This session will simply provide baseline data for future comparisons. Hopefully, the May testing will show that all of our students are making sustained growth during the second semester. Student scores are scheduled to go home with progress reports. Kristi Crawford has been the leader for organizing the MAP testing and working with NWEA (the company that produces MAP). Kathy Gustafson and Randy Porter ensured the systems were all technically in place. Jeannine Plath trained many of the non-certified staff who helped proctor the exams. Thanks also to the seventh grade team who piloted the testing in November to help work out any bugs prior to full implementation.

Committee Reports

Attached are the committee minutes from the Transportation and Stadium/Field/Track Committees for your review. The Athletic /Extra-curricular Program Committee just met for the first time on January 19, so I don't have minutes from their meeting yet. Attached are the set of questions I charged each committee with answering.

Combined Purchasing, etc.

I have contacted the Village of Poplar Grove to see if they are interested in working to do some joint purchasing, etc. to try to further reduce our costs. I have not heard back from them at this time. After that, I plan to try to reach out to the fire districts and the other villages to gauge their interest in trying to reduce materials costs for things like fuel, paper, etc.

Power School Update

Power School is still a work in progress. Kathy Gustafson and Jodie Embry have to go through all the old student fee information for each individual student. We are also looking at potentially being able to switch back to Power Lunch in place of LunchBox Pro for the following year. Semester grades were able to be stored and printed without any serious issues. I still have to clean up the discipline screens, but the medical screens have been cleaned up and are working. Tracy Peed (NBHS) and Kathy Gustafson will be going to Power School University in February.

Grading Policies

I have heard a fair number concerns from the NBHS staff regarding the change in weights for final exams and grading in general at the high school. I plan to gather a small committee to review the current policies and potentially make some recommendations for change prior to the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year.

Summer School Opportunities

We are going to try to offer Camp Invention, a science enrichment camp for upper elementary and middle school students, at Poplar Grove the Week of June 20. This will be a tuition-based program. They will use our staff, assuming we have volunteers, to run the program. Roscoe currently offers the program as well.

Chris Troller and Kevin Finnegan are working on a summer school model for grades 6-12 that would be based online through Compass Learning. The students would be required to attend some class days based upon their progress. We are also looking into some type of potential ESL offering for students that could be supported via ESL funding.

Capron Bleachers

The bleachers at Capron were recommended for removal at their last inspection. Capron's bleachers were inspected yesterday by B & R Bleachers, and it is their opinion the bleachers no longer be used for safety reasons. The bleachers are beyond their usable life, are non compliant to current safety requirements and cannot be retrofitted for safety. Jim Novak will work to have them removed and the metal sold for scrap. The wood will be used to fix other bleachers as necessary. He has already had a volunteer offer to help him with the project.

Capron Breakfast Program

The numbers for the Capron breakfast program are below. Participation is below the 80% participation rate that Cathy Nelson projected when she was budgeting the potential cost of the program. We will continue to monitor the participation rate over the next several months.

| | Free | Reduced | Paid | Total |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1/3/2011 | 25 | 5 | 10 | 40 |
| 1/4/2011 | 27 | 3 | 4 | 34 |
| 1/5/2011 | 18 | 4 | 1 | 23 |
| 1/6/2011 | 28 | 4 | 4 | 36 |
| 1/7/2011 | 30 | 2 | 5 | 37 |
| 1/10/2011 | 35 | 1 | 1 | 37 |
| 1/11/2011 | 26 | 2 | 0 | 28 |
| 1/12/2011 | 25 | 1 | 1 | 27 |
| 1/13/2011 | 23 | 2 | 3 | 28 |
| Total | 237 | 24 | 29 | 290 |

Math Audit

We just received the math audit results from the Pippens. The Math Committee and the administrative team will be digesting the findings of the audit over the next several months. It is attached.

Rockford District 205 Budget Information

Attached are a summary of the budget reduction committee's work in Rockford 205 and a copy of the mailing they recently sent out to the community.

Dental Services

As a reminder, Barb Sager has arranged for a volunteer dentist to visit our schools. The Care Mobil Dentist, Dr. Jason Grinter, will be at NBUE January 26th and Capron February 2nd.