

Administrative Bulletin to Board Members August 30, 2013

Superintendent Report

Propane and Natural Gas

Most recent word I have received from Columbia Gas is that the installation of the natural gas pipeline will begin within the next couple weeks. They have indicated to Heim where they will be coming to with their line which is a definite confirmation. Therefore, Heim is proceeding forward with their gas line from the school to the area where Columbia Gas will be bringing their line into our property. This provides us an additional piece of the puzzle regarding discussion with the propane. If Columbia indeed starts within the next two weeks it is important to remember that Columbia's projected time of finish is 4 months from beginning to end. Jeff Walters from Reynolds has indicated that he has seen much larger lines completed in shorter time. He predicts two and half months for completion. At present time we are holding here on a decision regarding propane in order to see if Columbia Gas will be started in 2 weeks. What this means to our decision is that the vaporizer would no longer be in the equation. We will simply be able to go with the four 1000 gallon tanks. Should Columbia Gas start within the next few weeks we believe they will be finished before the extreme cold weather which would require the vaporizer for the furnace to burn continuously. Our thinking at present time is that if they indeed start shortly the worst case scenario would be that they would finish by the end of January. Once again, it is important to note that as of right now we are on hold with making a decision until we see if Columbia Gas indeed does start their project within the next couple weeks.

Busing

At the last board meeting there was a question regarding the Black Oak area. Since that time I have received an inquiry as to why. Below is the information I have present regarding this issue.

There a total of 50 students in the green Lane and Black Oak area. Here is what presently happens and why as best I can tell.

- 1. Bus #8 starts at Green lane and travels Black Oak Road to the crossroads at Stoneybreak*
- 2. Bus #8 then continues on Old 126(Buck Valley Road) to Warfordsburg.*
- 3. Bus #7 travels from Dot to foot of Flickerville*
- 4. Then travels Deenen's Gap road then Franklin Mills road to Old 126.*
- 5. Then travels to cross roads at Stoneybreak.*
- 6. Then travels Stoneybreak road to Green Lane then to school*
- 7. Both 7 and 8 arrive at crossroads at Stoneybreak not necessarily at the same time.*

We could turn bus #8 around at Stoneybreak crossroads and sent it back down to continue to pick up the students and come on to school. We would then send Bus #7 down Old 126 and on to school. The problem with this situation is that Bus #7 is to full at that point to be able to pick up all the students between Stoneybreak and Warfordsburg on Old 126(Buck Valley Road). Therefore they have bus #8 traveling that route and Bus#7 traveling the other route.

Regardless of which bus you run where, you have about the same mileage. Since both buses are owned by the same contractor, it become irrelevant as to one losing miles and the other gaining miles. Which makes it easy for the district to make decisions based on what is best for the district and then the students. Hope this provides the information you have ask for.

Vo –Tech Transportation

Presently the Vo-tech transportation is not working so as to allow our students to return to school at an appropriate time in order to not miss other classes. I will be working on this issue and may require some minor modifications with the vo-tech transportation and the beginning and ending time of classes.

High School Report

Workshop/training on Sudden Cardiac Death

Dr. Mandek and his assistants gave a workshop/training to all of the Southern Fulton High School coaching staff on sudden cardiac death. The training was held on Wednesday, August 28 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and was extremely valuable to all of those in attendance. Dr. Mandek is a cardiologist out of Harrisburg that serves Fulton County via the Fulton County Medical Center. It was a huge honor and privilege to have such an esteemed physician train our staff free of charge.

Olweus Bullying Prevention Community/Parent Kick Off

Several committees met this week in order to organize and schedule the Olweus Bullying Prevention Community/Parent KickOff that is occurring during the high school Open House on Thursday, August 29, 2013. Jamie Taylor, along with the committee members are sharing information with the parents/students prior to the beginning of Open House.

VoTech Transportation

Transportation for the Southern Fulton students that are attending votech have been finalized and resolved all of the scheduling conflicts in order for them to return to Southern Fulton by 10:30 a.m.

Elementary Report

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students and parents had an opportunity to tour the elementary building and take a short bus ride with their parents on August 7, 2013. I appreciate the help of Mr. Shawn Weaver and his driver for the evening. Mr. Weaver provided the service to our district at no cost.

Start of the School Year

Students are quickly learning the routines of a new school year. We are working on getting schedules organized and working with students to assure that the transition is as smooth as possible.

I have been busy visiting classrooms and meeting with new students to the elementary school. Elementary staff and students are looking forward to Grandparent Luncheon on September 6, 2013.

Band Numbers

Mr. Arnold is currently working with 17 Grade 5 band students and 21 Grade 6 band students. I will have a count for Grade 4 students after interested students choose their respective instruments.

Accountability Block Grant

The Accountability Block Grant for 2013-2014 has been approved for the district. I received this information via an email on 8/28/13. As per my update on 8/1/13, the full amount of the grant (\$64,255) will now be available to the district as the grant has been approved.

Special Education Report

August 22-26 (2013) Special Education Leadership Academy (Bedford Springs)

The goal of the Summer Academy was to advance the pool of skilled leaders who serve students with disabilities through a focused program of learning. This four-day training was held in the summer at Bedford Springs. The conference theme was Achieving Balance: Managing Compliance, Leading Improvement – with a particular focus of presuming competence for all students with disabilities. Topics for the 2013 Academy cover areas such as effective elements of emotional support services, using assistive technology to support learning, teacher effectiveness model, how the common core will impact special education, and effective transition programs. Another focus was on the development of those leadership skills required to administer and manage special education programs and services that meet federal and state requirements. Specific sessions were designed for new supervisors and veteran administrators to learn about special education laws and regulations, 504 compliance, and other related subjects. A separate strand was offered for intermediate unit special education directors. A full day of sessions and activities conducted by Bureau of Special Education (BSE) staff was provided to address issues unique to that population.

Sessions began at 8:00 and ended at 5:30 with working lunches. Every evening there were sessions, study groups, brainstorming, as well as networking opportunities to learn from others. Personally, I found this time especially helpful. 6:00 – 8:30.

July 29 - August 2 (2013) Autism Conference (Penn State)

This conference provided comprehensive, evidence-based information to assist all educational team members, other professionals, and families in developing effective educational programming for all students with autism spectrum disorders.

To name a few sessions I attended: Autism Treatment, Autism Research Updates, Context Matters: Implementing Evidence-Based Practices, Recent Developments at the Behavior Analyst Certification, Applying Danielson Framework for Teaching to those teaching students on the spectrum, PA Common Core, Instruction, and Statewide Assessments, Explaining the New DSM-5, Instruction Basics for Children with Autism, Preparing for Success in the Workplace for People with Autism, The Art of Expression, Teaching Students with Autism How to Read, The Impact of the Competent Learner Model, Meaningful Inclusion, Through the Lion's Eyes.

August 5 – August 8 (2013) Penn State Low Incidence Conference

I attended a mini-boot camp on How to Support Students with Hearing Loss in the School System. The speaker was Karen Anderson, PHD. Every session that I attended focused on students who are hearing impaired. She was quite intense, but provided excellent materials and information. This information will be shared during an in-service with the staff, which has students with hearing impairments in their classroom and/or on their caseloads. The speaker also has written many materials and had them for sale at the conference. Some of these materials were excellent and purchased to use in our school district.

August 14, 2013 Compliance Monitoring Mandated Training (PATTAN in Harrisburg)

Southern Fulton will go through reciprocal monitoring in May. The training provided the changes and mandates that the district must follow to prepare for the monitoring as well as what to expect when it occurs. There are many changes incorporated into the monitoring that were not included the last time. Example: Education Benefit Review. Student files will be reviewed for three years and a series of approximately 10 pages for each year will need to be filled out on each student. Members of the team for self-reflection prior to the team coming will include regular education teacher, IU staff, PATTAN staff, parents, and a parent. If more information is requested I can and will provide it in my next report.

SEPRN

Change to current special education plan. Information was provided to the state that we changed a special education classroom. The special education teacher was in one of the sixth grade classrooms, but had to move when we hired a 6th grade teacher. The state must approve every change associated with special education. A monitor will be coming to SF to approve the move. (hopefully)

Informal Observations

I have carried out informal walk through's in both buildings and have been very pleased with the start-up of school with staff being organized and prepared for the unexpected needs.