

Administrative Bulletin to Board Members

April 25, 2014

Superintendent Report

Pre K

Research clearly indicates that the four major reasons for operating a Pre K program are:

1. Significantly improves early literacy, language, and math skills as children enter kindergarten.
2. Reduces special education placement. There is no concrete evidence exactly to what percent other than it does reduce the number of placements.
3. Reduces grade repetition as much as possibly 1/3 through 8th grade.
4. Increases the likelihood of high school graduates and college placement.

Research indicates operating a 3 and 4 year old program greatly enhances the above four outcomes. My belief in supporting Pre K programs can be well documented by my past actions. The initial Pre K 4 year old program at Central Fulton was started by Mr. Swadley through a grant. This program was operated for developmentally delayed children and children of low income families. When that grant finished while I was Superintendent we moved to a full 4 year old Pre-Kindergarten for all district residence which was funded by the district budget. I think it is quite clear these were much stronger economic times and in doing so did not take funds away from K-12 students' needs.

My priorities in this district at present time with regards to funding are as follows and in order of priority:

1. Plan Con renovation of buildings.
2. Major additional funding for curriculum and technology which has been stripped from this district's budget for the past 3 years. I do not fault the board for this because overall funding for education over the past 3 years whether state or federal has been greatly reduced.
3. Pre K programs for all 4 year olds in the district.
4. Pre K program for all 3 year olds in the district which would be an abbreviated program compared to the 4 year old program.

I can assure you at different times in the past 2 years since taking this position I have discussed these 4 areas of priorities with legislative representatives and people within the Department of Education.

As an elected representative who represents the community, I would encourage each of you to discuss these issues and any other issues that are important to you with members of the community in order to represent them as elected to do. If it is found indeed that the community is willing to support additional tax increases to run a four year old program then I say we begin moving forward. Right now with the building project we are in essence committed to raising taxes to the index for 5 years. We have already done so for one year so; therefore there are 4 years left.

I explained at the budget meeting the Governor has in his budget a block grant for early childhood learning. The exact amount of that non-competitive grant is \$138,161.00. This money has not been placed in our budget because the state as of yet has not passed a budget. Also, it is important to note that this is the only increase in funding that the Governor is proposing for education. The significant of that is, that many districts and their superintendents have been lobbying legislators that this is not really an increase in education because they are being told where the money has to be spent. Additionally, the argument is being

made that one size does not fit all districts. Also, the argument is being made that the Governor is taking money away from needed areas in K12.

In the state of Pennsylvania the top advocacy group for Pre K is a nonprofit organization called Pre K for PA which has also been advocating you do not take money from K12 to run Pre K programs. They advocate that Pre K funding should be its own separate source. Because of the above we have not added those funds into the budget. The Governors proposed budget at this time probably has a 50/50 chance of passing even with a republican legislature. The biggest issue in the upcoming election across the state is funding of education.

Plan Con

- A. As you know there was a moratorium put on Plan Con that no more projects could be started. It was stated that those districts that were already in the pipeline would continue to move through the process. However, the Department of Education with direction from the State Administration began holding up reviews and approval of Part H for those districts that were already moving through the process. By holding up Part H, districts were not able to receive their state approval in order to submit for reimbursement of the bond issues. There have been enough outcries from superintendents and districts that this process of approving Part H has started to move forward again. Working with the district's architect and financial advisor we have been able to communicate with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and received insurance that they are again approving Part H of districts' Plan Cons but they are being done in the order in which they were received. Once Part H is approved and the remaining two parts of Plan Con they will be paying lump sums to any districts who have had to make their bond payments and have not as of yet received their state reimbursements. Because of this, I would recommend the board be extremely cautious about starting any major projects at this time. I could say it was good that I knew how to arrange our bond issue so that will not be a major problem for us. Instead I will simply say I enjoy being lucky.

- B. The gym floor has been damaged by the lifts they used during the painting process. During a construction meeting prior to the painting of the gym I expressed concern regarding the lifts and the weight of the lifts on the gym floor. I am extremely happy at this time that I expressed those concerns. The contractor indicated they would protect the floor and the lifts were under the weight limit. The majority of the problem is the cracking of the finish and the peeling where the cracking occurs were the boards meet. However, we do have several areas were some miner splitting has occurred. I have already implemented the following steps:
 - a. Numerous pictures were taken to document the damage.
 - b. Contractor was notified and shown the problems.
 - c. The architect was informed of the problem and pictures were submitted to them.
 - d. I have spoken with our liability insurance carrier and submitted pictures to them.
 - e. I have submitted a request to speak with our builders risk insurance carrier but as of this date have not had verbal contact with them yet.
 - f. The American Hardwood Floors Association who deals with gym floors has been contacted and will be making a site visit.

It is important to note that when Heim did the air handlers, they put mats on the floor and plywood on top of the mats. The painter simply put plastic on the floor.

- C. I have attached information from Lobar and Brock Associates Metal Resources providing you with options as discussed at the last board meeting. Another option that was submitted by Eric is being explored at this time. I have made initial contact with Tnemec which is a top quality coating manufacture. I have not received information back from them but have also discussed this issue with the architect.

Energy Savings

The energy savings program is quickly coming to a close. I have asked representatives from Reynolds to attend our work session on May 20, 2014. The major issue I asked them to review with you is the repair of the boiler that was damaged because of freezing. Also, it will provide you as a board time to ask questions you may have regarding the project. It is important to note that they will be with us in an advisor capacity throughout the next year in order to keep track of and document energy savings in order to insure the guaranteed savings in the contract.

Elementary Report

Federal Programs

The Pennsylvania Department of Education continues to have technical issues with their eGrant Portal for submission of the Federal Programs, Title I and Title IIA, amendments. Our amendments have been adjusted and updated. I am awaiting resolution of the issues on the portal to complete a final submit of the district updates.

Elementary Spelling Bee

The 24th Annual Spelling Bee will be held on May 1, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Elementary School. This year's Bee is held at the elementary due to the unavailability of the High School Auditorium. Selected students in grades 4-6 will have an opportunity to showcase their spelling talents.

Elementary Spring Choral and Band Concert

The annual Spring Choral and Band Concert for elementary students will be held on May 8th at the Elementary School at 7:00 PM.

PSSA Testing

PSSA testing will conclude next week with the administration of the Grade 4 Science PSSA test.
Upcoming Dates:

May

1	8:30 AM PSSA Science Grade 4 Test # 2 7:00 PM PTA Spelling Bee (Elementary Gym)
2	Grade 2 Field Trip (Pittsburgh)
4-10	Staff Appreciation Week
8	7:00 PM Elementary Band and Chorus Concert
13	Grade 5 Field Trip to Washington D.C.

14	24 Game Competition Grades 3 and 4
15	24 Game Competition Grades 5 and 6
16	Kindergarten Field Trip to Tristate Zoological Park (Cumberland MD)
20	Grade 6 Field Trip to Washington D.C.
21	Grade 4 Field Trip to Gettysburg
22	Scholastic Competition/Ice Cream Day
23	Field Day
26	No School-Memorial Day
27	7:00 PM Grade 6 Graduation (elementary)
28	Citizenship Day
29	Citizenship Day Make-up

June

2	School in Session
3	School in Session Kindergarten Registration Make-up
4	School in Session
5	School in Session
6	School in Session Grade 6 Sports Physicals (High School)
9	School in Session 7:30 AM Principal's Reception (tentative)
10	Teacher in Service (No School for Students)
11	Student Last Day of School 8:45 AM Kindergarten Graduation

High School

On Wednesday, April 23, 2014, the Mellott Company hosted the senior class of Southern Fulton High School for a tour of the facility and conducted mock interviews with all of the students. Students were required to prepare a resume, dress professionally and participate in an interview with representatives of The Mellott Company. As a new component this year, Carole Zurkle, Paul Mellott's assistant, invited other business representatives and local professionals to participate in the interviews to give students additional practice with external interviewers. The students looked absolutely fantastic! They did a great job representing Southern Fulton High School. One senior was even invited back for a "real" interview for a position in the parts department next week.

UPCOMING DATES:

- April 29 – Environthon – Cowan's Gap
- April 29 – Regional FFA Public Speaking
- April 30 – Day 1 PSSA Science Exam 8th Grade
- May 1 – Day 2 PSSA Science Exam 8th Grade
- May 2- 4 – Scholastic Scrimmage National Competition
- May 3 – SATs at SFHS
- May 4 – NHS Basket Bingo; McConnellsburg Fire Hall
- May 8 – AP Eng Lit Exam
- May 8 – Prom Promise Assembly (pm)
- May 10 – Prom
- May 12 – Spring Hazardous Weather Drill
- May 14 – AP European History Exam

- May 17 – 7:30 p.m. Spring Band Concert
- May 12-23 Spring Keystone Exams
- May 19 – Literature Keystone Exam (am) Module 1
- May 20 – Literature Keystone Exam (am) Module 2
- May 22 – ALL Algebra I Keystone Exam (am) Module 1
- May 23 – ALL Algebra I Keystone Exam (am) Module 2
- May 23 – Elementary Field Day
- May 23 – Olweus Class Meeting; 7th period
- May 26 – No School
- May 28 – Biology Keystone Exam (am) Module 1
- May 29 – Biology Keystone Exam (am) Module 2
- May 29 – FFA Banquet
- May 31 – 7:30 p.m. Spring Chorus Concert
- June 2 – Art Institute Field Trip
- June 3 – Semper Fi Trip
- June 3 – STARS Jr High Hershey Trip
- June 4 – Senior Project Presentations with Mellott Co
- June 5 – NHS Fieldtrip
- June 6 – Graduation Practice Day 1
- June 9 – STARS Jr High Hershey Trip – Rain Date
- June 9 – Graduation Practice Day 2
- June 9 – 6th Grade Orientation – (pm)
- June 9 – Baccalaureate
- June 10 – Graduation Practice Day 3
- June 10 – Teacher In-Service
- June 10 – Graduation
- June 11 – Spanish Club Trip to Kings Dominion
- June 11 – Last Day of School

Facilities Manager Report

The areas where major renovations are occurring at this time are Wendy Ritz's classroom, Justin Sholes classroom, Linda Schriever's classrooms, the second half of the gym, the 1st floor restrooms in A section, and the life skills restroom. As of April 25, no areas or rooms have been completely finished under this project, and the craftsmanship of the ceramic tile folks is less than standard and the general appearance of the restroom renovations and life skills restroom is terrible and unacceptable in my opinion. These issues are being addressed.

The softball infield is now hard as a rock, since it has dried. We are now able to get equipment on the field so we added more infield mix in the areas that were collecting water in pools in hopes that we could achieve grade or slope for positive drainage. Hopefully this will help. We'll get it figured out!

Mileage for the schools automobiles: (Van = 57,000 miles) (Car= 130,000 miles) (truck= 91,000 miles)