Administrative Bulletin to Board Members
May 9, 2014

Superintendent Report

Bill to Eliminate Property Tax

Tuesday evening the question came up regarding a bill to eliminate property tax. In the Senate there is a bill labeled SB 76 to eliminate property tax. The bill purposes this to be done by increasing the State's earned income tax and the State's sales tax. Some of the major hurdles for the bill are as follows:

- Presently there exists no equitable funding formula in the State.
- The biggest issue with the bill would be a constitutional issue in that the Lower Marion School District near Philadelphia spends $24,000 per student from money raised locally which does not include any state funding. With the little State funding they receive it is well over $24,000 per student. Meanwhile, Reading School District spends less than $2,000 per student from money raised locally. Reading School District spends $11,200 per student when State funding is included. If this bill was to pass there would be a constitutional challenge because the State would not be able to fund districts at $24,000 per student versus other district at far less per student. In order to prevent these challenges others feel it is extremely important to obtain an equitable funding formula throughout the State prior to making changes to the funding itself. The last time the Legislature looked at doing this the bill was simply for the State to fund all districts the same amount per student and allow all districts the same amount based on an average across the State. Then districts had the option to increase that spending by supplementing it with property tax if they so choose.

Budget Shortfall Puts Corbett's Education Funding Plans at Risk

In case you did not view it I have included an article that just arrived today from PSBA. The article talks about the revenue short falls and what it may do to the Governor's budget.

Plan Con

I have attached a copy of the construction meeting minutes from April 30, 2014. The biggest issue is the gym floor as indicated before. In two to three weeks after they have completed the second half of the gym we will have people in to do an evaluation.

Elementary Report

Spelling Bee

The 24th annual PTA Spelling Bee was held on Thursday, May 1, 2014 for grades 4-6. These students took top honors for their grade level.

Grade 4: Haylee Fischer, 1st Place
Holden Stotler, 2nd Place
Avery Pittman, 3rd Place

Grade 5: Kayleigh Cirtwell, 1st Place
Julia Barnhart, 2nd Place
Jillian Hiller, 3rd Place

Grade 6: Liam Grabowski, 1st Place
Lydia Hiller, 2nd Place
Lindsey Hollenshead, 3rd Place

Band/Chorus Concert

The elementary Band and Choral Students will be presenting their annual Spring Concert on May 8th at 7:00 PM at the Elementary School. We look forward to this annual spring concert that showcases student growth and participation in the arts.

PVAAS

Teachers of reading, mathematics, writing, and science PSSA content are updating their student rosters to reflect student and teacher enrollment percentage and instructional percentage multiplied together to determine instructional responsibility. This information is collected to be used in the evaluation process as part of the PVAAS three year average student growth calculations. Faculty members who share in the educational process of students who take the PSSA test in grades 4-6 are included into this information updating at the elementary level.

Upcoming Dates:

May	
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

PA Governor's School for Engineering and Technology

Academically talented high school students who are current juniors may apply to the Pennsylvania Governor's School for Engineering and Technology. Applicants are expected to demonstrate academic achievement, sustained interest in the sciences and mathematics, engineering and technology, and a record of pursuing this interest in activities beyond the classroom. From the pool of qualified applicants, 50 participants will be chosen from across the state. The competition is very intense. A selection panel comprised of PGSE&T administration and Lehigh University faculty convenes to read the applications. All parts of the application are taken into account, with emphasis placed on the student's written expression and ideas conveyed through the essays, as well as the transcript. The teacher and counselor forms are read for evidence of the student's daily work habits, attitudes, curiosity, independence and reliability.

I am thrilled to report that Tyler Johns has been accepted to Governor's school for engineering and technology. It is a 2 week on campus experience held at Lehigh University this summer. This is a HUGE honor!!! For additional details on the program, please see the following link:
http://www.lehigh.edu/engineering/faculty/undergraduate/pgset/

Scholastic Scrimmage

Early in the 2013-14 school year (probably our first tournament in October), SF qualified for the national competition by being the top scoring small school at a tournament. In the past years, SF has attended the national competition of NAQT (National Academic Quiz Tournament). That tournament was for all schools regardless of size.

This year NAQT decided to have a small school competition. There were 50 teams (from across the US) invited to attend because they have won local tournaments. It was held in Minneapolis, MN. We flew to Minneapolis on Friday morning, May 2. The competition began on Saturday morning. There were 5 pools of 10 schools. We went 4 – 5 and did not qualify for the finals. We did compete in consolation rounds. We were in a pool of 8 teams (that did not qualify for finals) and went undefeated. So our overall score was 7 wins and 5 loses, which was very good.

Even though it was a small school competition, most of the schools were larger than us, many graduating more than 100 students. Also, many schools were not public, which made the mix a little harder. (A school named "Advanced Science and Math" from Austin, TX was intimidating.)

NAQT also kept statistics on and ranked each player according to the number of correct answers they gave. Noah Hykes did exceptional!! He came in 22nd out of 261 players. I was so proud of the students. Their behavior was great.

One of the highlights of the weekend was visiting the Mall of America – the largest indoor mall in North America. They have an amusement park in the center. The kids enjoyed it so much, they went back 3 times. We also took a train into downtown Minneapolis, which was very interesting. We flew back on Sunday, May 4. It was a rewarding trip. The students that attended were Noah Hykes, Elijah Barnhart, Tyler Johns, Lacey Bradshaw, and Christina Bright. Paula Bright, Christina's mom, also went along to chaperone

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Judy Schriver

UPCOMING DATES:

- 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