

# **Administrative Bulletin to Board Members**

## **October 10, 2014**

### ***Superintendent Report***

#### **Pre K**

Attached is a letter from the Department of Education and Public Welfare concerning our grant application we submitted for our Pre K program. They regret to inform us that we are currently not being considered for funding. We are attempting to receive our evaluation of our grant in an effort to insure we can improve should we submit a grant in the future. We have not received word if we will be able to review that evaluation as of yet. In reading the letter it indicates that they had 10 million in federal funds and received requests for over 30 million. The difference in money available and the money requested is a true testimony concerning the lack of funding of education by State and Federal government.

#### **Funding of Schools in Pennsylvania**

I pulled an article for your review that gives an abbreviated history of the funding of schools in Pennsylvania. It is interesting reading the article because when I was first in education and started into administration the State funded at least 50% of the cost for education in the State. Presently the State funds about 35% of the cost.

#### **Gym Floor**

The gym floor will look great once finished. However, the finish will be delayed because they must repaint the maroon part of the floor. When first painted they had far too much of a red tint to the maroon and I made them hold up sealing over the paint until we get the correct maroon color. Therefore, the final sealing of the floor is on delay until they get the maroon painted a color we will approve and it has time to cure.

#### **Online Learning**

Presently the District spends \$9,500 for 100 licenses with the Blended Schools Program which provides some online learning. Most recently we have looked at a product called CANVAS which will provided an internet online Content Management System. We are able to purchase licenses to cover every teacher and student in the district at a cost slightly less than \$6,500 dollars. In moving in this direction next year we will not renew our contract with Blended Schools.

I had stated earlier that one of my objectives regarding curriculum over the next several years is to make sure every teacher has an online presence which will house at a minimum their assignments and worksheets so they are readily accessible to students and parents. I am a firm believer in online education and could sight many many reasons why we need to be looking at this. But at this time, I will simply list a few that are applicable in this District.

1. Money – Presently we are spending almost \$250,000 for students from our district to attend cyber schools. In addition to Southern Fulton moving toward CANVAS, Central Fulton has already started the move. I have been in discussion with Mrs. Paruch concerning developing a Fulton County Cyber Academy which will allow Southern Fulton and Central Fulton students to attend a cyber academy that would be operated by the districts. This greatly reduces the amount of funds

we are spending towards cyber schools, by making it a joint effort it will make it much more cost effective for both.

2. Student Learning Modalities - I am sure everyone realizes today students learn the majority of the things they know by using an electronic device. Regardless of whether that information is valuable or not. With the CANVAS product students will actually be able to connect using IPHones which would be a major benefit in funding one-on-one technology in the district. It is important to note that as you move in this direction you do open up a whole new set of problems which requires greater supervision on the part of the staff when students are using technology.
3. There is already online a whole host of ready accessible curriculum that can be pulled in and directly embedded in lessons when using a learning management system such as CANVAS. It is important to note that the Department of Education has also developed a web based curriculum called SAS which contains many items that are tested on the PSSAs and Keystones. They are continuing to add additional curriculum to the portal so that the curriculum that is tested on the PSSAs and Keystones will be housed on this portal. By moving to an online learning management system we will be able to develop online lessons that students will be able to access. The importance for the district as we look toward the future is that we need to refrain from buying complete series of text books district wide. We will need to purchase some printed text while pulling much of it from the internet.

Mrs. Hendershot and I have already begun discussions with teachers that we should no longer be teaching from a text book beginning from the front and going to the end. We need to teach only the units in the book that are appropriate and supplement with other curriculum especially from the SAS portal. In moving in this direction we will be looking in the future to provide at least one laptop cart per grade in the elementary. I realize this will be a significant investment and will need to look at the best way we can find to fund the technology.

### *Principal Report*

#### **PA State Police/Liquor Control Board**

On Tuesday, October 7, 2014, there were assemblies in both the elementary and high schools, hosted by the PA PSP. Trooper Jeff Butler spoke to the students in both buildings regarding under-aged drinking in an interactive format that was age-appropriate for students.

#### **College and Career Fair**

52 juniors and seniors attended the College and Career Fair in Bedford, where over 150 colleges, recruiters and trade schools were present.

#### **Mellott Company**

The Mellott Company conducted their second presentation for the seniors on Integrity, which ties directly into their senior projects that are required in order to graduate.