

Administrative Bulletin to Board Members

November 7, 2014

Superintendent Report

Plan Con Project

We are slowly but surely getting the punch list items completed. The architect has sent to Lobar two possible options to replace the metal panels. Once pricing has been obtained, this information will be brought to the board for a decision. At this board meeting I will be providing you with a look at the tentative accounting for the project.

Walkthrough

We have no scheduled walkthrough at this meeting. With the only major issue being the outside panels. Work session will start at 7:30 p.m.

CANVAS

We have begun initial meetings with the company who provides a product called CANVAS, which is an online learning management system. We will be doing a trial run on this during the second half of the school year. Presently in the budget we spend \$9,500 for Blended Schools. We will be transferring this funding to purchase CANVAS for the 2015-2016 school year. At an approximate cost of \$6,000 which provides user access for every student and teacher in the district. Where with the black board platform we only have a total of 100 users. As an administrative team we are all in agreement that in the near future we need to have online classes and work with Central Fulton School District to develop a Fulton County Virtual Academy.

Cafeteria Link

Working with Metz we have added a link for a cafeteria website which provides current lunch menus, nutritional information, and contact information.

Principal Report

PSSA/Keystone Exams

As the time approaches for the Winter Keystone Exams (our testing sessions are in January) the state is preparing a lot of trainings and webinars to gear up for the newly transformed PA Core Standards. This includes a change in the testing windows as well as the manner in which the tests are administered. In Grades 3-8, the PSSAs are now tested in the subject areas of Math and English Language Arts. In Grades 4 and 8 students are tested in Science, with the Writing assessment being merged with the English Language Arts assessments. The PSSAs will take place in the month of April, with testing occurring the majority of the month. The Winter Keystone Exams (Biology, Language Arts and Algebra I) will take place in January, with the Spring Exams occurring in May. Teachers will begin their trainings within the month online with face-to-face trainings occurring after the holiday break.

Interact Club

Once again, the Interact (Junior Rotary Club) was honored at the annual luncheon on Tuesday, November 4 for all of their volunteer work in the community. The group continues to work towards raising awareness and funds for polio with the guidance of Mrs. Gordon.

High School Dean of Students Report

Barnard Family

The staff and students of both buildings took a collection for the Barnard family. We had great participation and made a contribution to help them out.

iPads

Our iPads arrived at the high school. Mr. Leisher is at work getting them setup for student use in the Spanish classroom.

SMART Reward Program

We are about to kick off the SMART rewards program. This program is very similar to STARS, except it is for 9th-12th grades. Students will receive rewards at the end of each quarter, based on discipline, attendance, and grades.

We will be having a Veteran's Day assembly. The band and chorus will perform, and we will view the live webcast.

Elementary Dean of Student Report

Veteran's Day Assembly

We are planning a Veteran's Day Assembly at the Elementary school on Tues., Nov. 11. We have extended an invitation to veterans and their families. The kindergarten students are excited about singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" for the program. In addition, there will be participation from students from other grades. Furthermore, the Elementary Chorus will be singing several songs to honor the veterans.

Citizenship Reward

With the end of the marking period, we have had our first marking period Citizenship Reward. The students that received an A or B in Citizenship for the first marking period were rewarded with an extra half hour of recess.

Technology Specialist

PIMS Update

Everything for the October PIMS submission has been completed. We have until Friday November 14 to make any necessary corrections to the data. Some of this data is extremely important as it pertains to some of our funding from the state.

Donated Laptops

We received about 20 Dell Latitude laptops (mostly D820 and D830 models) as a donation. I'm investigating the specs on them and installing Windows 7. I will need to upgrade the memory in a few of them but they should last us for several years. I also have to look at their batteries. If they are going to be used without being plugged in to power, I may need to order batteries for some of them.

Technology Purchases

We have ordered just about everything that was requested on Mrs. Hendershot's list of technology purchases. Some of the iPads and laptops have arrived and I have started configuring them for use. All of the LCD/DLP projectors have arrived as well. I will get with Mr. Bain to determine what cables and mounting kits might be needed for them.

Conference

On Wednesday November 12th I will be at PaTTAN in Harrisburg to attend a session on assistive technology for special education students. The intent is to learn about equipment, software, etc. that I'm not aware of that might benefit our students.

Special Education Report

Enrollment of IEP Students

Since the beginning of the school year, nine students with IEP's have enrolled in Southern Fulton District. Nine have left the district; however, the students coming and going are not in the same grade levels and/or the same schools. The elementary is looking at much higher numbers of students with IEP's than high school at this point in time.

There are also 9 in the process of being evaluated for special education currently in the elementary building.

Project Max Update

Project Max is a pilot program designed to maximize instruction for all students in the district. PATTAN staff, IU staff, and district staff meet in the district one time a month to work on specific goals outlined by PATTAN staff. Through the pilot program grants are provided to reimburse the school district for substitutes.

Transition Pilot Project Update

Five teachers have submitted an IEP with transition goals to the state appointed transition coordinator to be reviewed. They were reviewed with the supervisor of special education and then taken back to the respective teacher to make improvements and/or adjustments. The next step is to have PATTAN staff and the Intermediate Transition Coordinator come to the school to provide additional training on the new state mandates. All Fulton County Schools were "randomly" selected for this pilot project.