

Administrative Bulletin to Board Members December 12, 2014

Superintendent Report

Cell Towers

Some of the earlier cell towers that had been built in the county were assessed at a much higher value than the recent cell towers that have been built. This created a situation where the cell tower owners appealed their assessment and have actually won the appeal. Two of these towers are located in our school district and the appeal affects their school district taxes along with their county taxes. Recently there has been negotiation with your solicitor in order to retrieve over paid taxes back to the beginning, which was 2000 to 2001 when the towers were built. Through negotiations the retrieval of over paid taxes will only go back to 2008 when the appeal was filed. An agreement was also reached with the owners that credit for back taxes would be reduced from their paid taxes from 2015 and 2016 rather than us writing a check. This method will result in a reduction of their 2015 and their 2016 taxes by an amount of \$15,595.00.

New Child Abuse Legislation

A number of bills have been passed this year regarding child abuse because of the Jerry Sandusky case. Many of these bills take effect December 31, 2014, others begin July 1, 2015, and others need to be completed by December 31, 2015. The truly sad part of this situation is that, if the laws currently on the books had been followed, the situation at Penn State would have been dealt with in an appropriate manner. These new laws are definitely going to be unfunded mandates which we as a district must comply with. In addition to the many reporting mandates we must follow, I have listed several of the most prominent issues that will affect all employees, volunteers, and independent contractors:

1. Child abuse history clearances and background checks now must be completed new every 3 years for all present and future employees, volunteers, and independent contractors. This will become a record keeping task for us.
2. The educators discipline act has been expanded and amended so that any educator arrested, indicted, or convicted of certain crimes must report the action to their employing district within 72 hours. It also prohibits schools from entering into confidential settlement agreements that interfere with the districts mandatory reporting.
3. An employee who has been accused of child abuse would need to be put on paid leave until the accusation has been investigated.
4. All Staff will need to go through a new mandatory reporting training. I may be requesting a half act 80 day later in the spring in order to insure all staff receive the mandatory reporting training.

Education Foundation – Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program

The Educational Foundation will be meeting with Jim O'Donnell in order to move forward with the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. This meeting has just been recently scheduled for December 17, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. in the elementary library conference room.

Elementary Computer Proposal

I had a conference call with Gordon Walker, Financial Advisor and Joe Pierce, lawyer for the bond issue that we did for the high school. We definitely will be able to use the \$50,000 to purchase the laptops and carts for the elementary. Also during my conference call Mrs. Schetrompf and I discussed the manners in which we should use the remaining approximately \$425,000. We are presently looking at two possibilities and need to check out the legality of these two issues.

Mr. Leisher, Mrs. Hendershot, Mrs. Cutchall, and I have explored all possibilities and will be ordering laptops because they will provide the most cost effective and range of use for all four grade levels.

Teacher Evaluation Report for PDE

I have attached a copy of the report that was submitted to PDE regarding teacher evaluation. I did not include all the pages because many of them did not contain information from us or were directly related to charter schools. PDE will make the report publicly available possibly through the school performance profile portal.

Principal Report

Mobile Dentist Update

The mobile dentist recently saw 30 students at the elementary school and they have 15 to see at the high school tomorrow. Most of the students seen would not have an opportunity to receive dental care outside of school.

ESL- Ms. Adams

Time has been spent obtaining warm winter clothing and Christmas presents for ELL students. In addition, a representative from Migrant Education has made contact and is very impressed with the ESL program and related activities within our district.

Gifted Ed – Ms. Adams

Gifted education has been busy presenting a play for the pre-school class, creating a volcano for science and participating in trivia questions which are placed daily in their folders. The students are allowed one guess a day and the first person who guesses correctly, up to 20 clues are given, wins a candy bar.

School Spirit Store – Ms. Adams

The Fall School Spirit and Santa's Workshop were a huge success. The Fulton County News allowed Miss Adams to place a small advertisement free of charge and that led to several sales. She now has a list of "regulars" that she is to call for the Fall and Spring sales so they can place orders. The money raised will be used for additional supplies and activities for the Library, Gifted and ESL Programs.

Class Officers – Mrs. Solomon

Our class officers made a wonderful impression during the leadership training that they went through in the beginning of the year. SFC Edward Zink offered to have a commanding officer, a person who is in charge of 12,000 troops, come down and work with our class leaders. He wanted to provide a follow up activity since our students worked so well. Our students will go through a two hour training session during the end of January. Once again, our students, making a wonderful impression!

Interact Club

Interact is a service organization that is a branch of the Rotary Club. This club was started a few years ago and is advised by Heather Gordon (who volunteers as the advisor). The students have been accumulating volunteer hours in a variety of activities. In addition to raising money for Polio, the club did a food drive for the Food Basket of Fulton County. In an effort to encourage students to participate, the Interact Club created a competition among homerooms, with the homeroom bringing the most cans receiving a pizza party. Ms. Mackel's homeroom won the competition and a total of over 300 cans being donated to this worthy cause. The Interact Club also supported Santa's Workshop by volunteering to help the younger elementary students select their gifts. They also were able to talk with all of the 3rd graders regarding the importance of education and handed out dictionaries to each student.

SAS Conference

Mrs. Hendershot attended the 2 day SAS (Standards Aligned Curriculum) Conference in Hershey, PA which is funded in part by PDE and the district portion of \$200 was paid for via the Ready-To-Learn Grant. This conference is a state-wide conference that brings together key stakeholders in order to review best practices and obtain newly developed strategies for school districts to implement in order to meet the achievement and growth standards set forth by the state. Mrs. Hendershot attended sessions specifically designed for "Maximum Biology Achievement" and "Text-Dependent Analysis" both of which are weak areas for the school district. The information obtained from this conference will be communicated to faculty members via curriculum department meetings. In addition, staff members in both schools are attending specific trainings for "Text-Dependent Analysis" questions in January at the Intermediate Unit.

4th Grade Class Service Learning Project

Below is a draft of the letter to be sent home to parents to explain the project.

Dear Families,

We recently read about students creating projects to improve the lives of others and promote education. In the article we read, students completed service learning projects. Service learning projects combine learning goals and community service in ways that can enhance both student growth and the common good. Service learning projects often address a community need.

In class, we discussed how there is a need to promote a love of reading in young children. We also discussed the importance of being read to as a child. Using those ideas, we created a service learning project of our own. Each student in my homeroom will be selecting a favorite childhood book. I have several personal books that the students may choose from. My goal is to have 18 different books selected! We will practice reading these books fluently in class. Once the students have mastered their books, we will record their fluent reading on CD. The students will illustrate a cover picture and write a summary to include in the CD case.

At the conclusion of the project, we will donate our CDs to the Everett Head Start. I have planned for us to take a class trip to hand deliver our projects! A permission form will be sent home closer to the conclusion of the project.

My goal is to create a website were families, friends, and colleagues can help with our project. In class we have discussed needing donations of headphones, CDs, CD cases, copies of our selected books, and even a CD player. These items will be listed as possible donations.

I look forward to completing this project with the students! I am sure it will be a great learning experience. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Best,

Mrs. Heidenreich

Mrs. Heidenreich has contacted the head start in Everett, Pa and is waiting to hear back from the head of educational services. In the meantime, she has asked her students to think of their favorite childhood books.

Technology Specialist

Monthly Data Quality Network Meeting

On Wednesday November 19 I attended the monthly data quality network meeting at the IU. This month's meeting focused on data breeches. We were broken into groups and did a data breach simulation whereby we were given some information. We had to develop a plan of action based on that information. At various times we were then given more information and had to act on that information. It was a very worth-while event. One of the main points was what exactly constitutes a data breach. A data breach is when a person's name and some other identifying information (e.g., social security number or driver's license number) has somehow been retrieved by someone who should not have access to such information. Another important point was that if there is a data breach, only the people whose information has been retrieved should be notified. You should not send out a mass notification to everyone. For example, if specific teachers had information retrieved, only those teachers should be notified, not all teachers.

eRate 2015-2016

I'm in the process of submitting eRate Form 470. This form outlines the services we believe we want to implement and therefore would like eRate reimbursement. For the past couple years, I only requested rebates for telephone service. This service is being phased out of eRate – percentage of reimbursement will drop each year until no longer available.

For 2015-2016 I'm requesting eRate for our current telephone service, the possibility of getting a new telephone system (e.g., VOIP), and wireless network equipment for the elementary school (similar to what is at the high school).

Once Form 470 is submitted, vendors have twenty-eight days to submit pricing and to request further information. Once that information is received, a vendor for each service is selected then a Form 471 is submitted with the vendor / pricing information. After that, it is generally either over the summer or sometime during the next school year that we receive a letter indicating what, if any, services were approved. I believe we get notified sometime before October 21st of the next school year.

If we do get approved, we will have over a year to implement. This means we will not need to budget any money for the new projects for the 2015-2016 school year. Since they would not get implemented until the 2016-2017 school year, that's when we'll need to budget the funds.

Once I get information from the vendors as far as pricing for the new telephone system and wireless at the elementary school, I'll discuss with Mr. Hann and the principals to determine if, based on cost, it will be feasible to do either of these.

Business Manager

School Nutrition Programs

I have attached the school nutrition programs claims for October 2014 that were submitted by the cafeteria and are normally distributed at the board meeting.

Facilities Manager

Elementary School

The leaks in the elementary schools cold water supply lines have been repaired. The 4" line located in the Storage room off the kitchen and the 2 ½" line located in the locker room was repaired Thanksgiving day and alterations to a 2" line located in the kitchen storage room were repaired on Tuesday December 8th.

High School

The front section of the stage, behind the curtain, has been cleared for the Christmas concert. The Pin Oak tree at the west end of the building by the elevator shaft has been trimmed so that the branches will no longer make contact with the building. The trees next to the property line joining the church need removed and a couple trees in the rear and front of the building also need removed, a project for next year.

The plumbing fixture replacement associated with the energy project is about 70% complete. It also appears, at our request, that Reynolds is having Conexus rename and correct the numbering and labeling system associated with the HVAC system to correspond with the present numbering and labeling system, per the architectural drawings.

High School Dean of Students

National Honor Society Trip to New York City

On 12/3, members of the National Honor Society attended a trip to New York City. For several of the students, it was their first time being in the city. They visited Rockefeller Center, including the famous Christmas tree. They ate lunch at Ellen's Stardust Diner, a proving ground of future Broadway talent. They took in Times Square, all decorated for Christmas. To cap off the evening, they attended the 10th Anniversary performance of Wicked on Broadway. A fun and safe time was had by all.

Mount Aloysius College

On 12/4, a representative from Mount Aloysius College met with interested Juniors and Seniors.

Christmas Concert - Chorus

The SFHS Vocal Music Department presented its annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 7 at 3:00 PM. The concert featured a prelude by the guitar and music theory students. Indian Eight, a senior high octet, and the Tribe, a select chorus of 7th graders, each performed three songs. The major portion of

the concert featured the performance of the cantata "Sing We Now of Christmas" by the combined Senior High, Junior High and Community Choirs. Approximately 90 students and 50 adults took part. The concert was very well attended.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1

On 12/12, students will be attending a showing of The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1. They are reading the book in Ms. Mackel's class, along with seeing the film. She plans to integrate a compare/contrast activity into her curriculum.

Christmas Concert - Band

The Band concert will be held on 12/13 at 7:30 PM.

Elementary Dean of Students

Christmas Program

Practice for the Elementary Christmas Program is underway. The students have been rehearsing on stage all week in preparations for the program that will be on Monday the 15th for grades K – 3 and Tuesday the 16th for grades 4-6. The doors will open both nights at 6:15 p.m. with the program beginning at 7 p.m. The Needmore Fire Company will be sending volunteers to help park the guests at the program. In addition, the PA State Police will be volunteering their time to aid the flow of traffic on 522. Furthermore, additional parking will be provided at the high school on Monday evening and at the old elementary for Tuesday evening. Sheila Swope will be volunteering her time to shuttle parents from the additional parking to the elementary school for the program. To show our appreciation to the volunteers, the PTA will be providing snacks and hot chocolate for them.

Battle of the Windows

The school has been beautifully decorated for Christmas by several PTA members. Some of the decorations were bought and many were made by the students in their art classes. To further get in the "spirit" the teachers and students are having a "Battle of the Windows." Teachers and students are decorating their doors and/or windows to show their Christmas spirit. The windows will be judged and the winning class in each wing will receive an extra recess before Christmas. The students and teachers are doing a super job. They are making it hard for the judges to pick.

Special Education Director

High School Life Skills Program

Students in the High School Life Skills program are currently being trained under Miss Adam's supervision to help check out books at the high school.

Elementary Life Skills Program

The elementary life Skills classroom planned, prepared, and served a Thanksgiving Meal. They did an excellent job preparing the meal and the staffs were quite creative to cook an entire meal without a stove. Elementary staff and students are anxious to receive the appliances that they were approved to receive through a grant, which will allow additional opportunities to gain life skills.

AHEAD

Carol Smith from AHEAD came and signed up 8 students for services to assist them in obtaining employment and also to receiving training to assist with competitive employment. Students must be either a junior or senior to take part in the program.

Project Max Training

Project Max Training will be at Southern Fulton on December 18, 2014.

Child Count

Child Count was submitted on time. There were a few glitches, but Connie was able to work through the technology part of and make the necessary adjustments. Thanks, Connie!

Elementary Multiple Disabilities Classroom

The students in the Elementary Multiple Disabilities Classroom are carrying out community service in the local area.

Elementary Special Education Grants

Grants were submitted by three elementary special education teachers in an effort to obtain iPads.