

Administrative Bulletin to Board Members December 19, 2014

Superintendent

Substitute Librarian

Mrs. Wilson shared with me that she is extremely happy with the individual who will be replacing her for the remainder of the school year. Mrs. Wilson indicated that after spending two days with Ms. Ritchey she believes the individual will be a valuable asset regardless of where we would place her in the district.

Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program

The Educational Foundation officers, Mrs. Hendershot, and I meet with James O'Donnell, Director of the Tax Credit Division Center for Business Financing. He reviewed the Educational Improvement Tax credit Program, provided information on completing the application, and ideas we may use for programs. The foundation will be moving forward with this process and filing our application sometime between mid to late winter.

Child Protective Service Law

In the next few months the board will need to adopt new and revised policies all regarding the many child protective service laws that have been passed this year as a result of the situation at Penn State. With these policies, most noted will be: shorter time lines, additional training for all who are employed or volunteer in a school and everyone renewing their clearances every three years. These changes will create additional record keeping for the district. The truly said part of the situation is that if the past laws on the books had been followed by those in charge at Penn State there would be no need for the many new and updated laws. I have met with most employees and am still meeting with other groups in order to review the changes that affect them directly.

Pearl Evans Scholarship

In the Pearl Evans Scholarship agreement our solicitor changed the wording in one of the items. That wording was not accepted by the lawyers for M&T Bank. Since then they have come up with a mutually agreed alternative wording. Therefore the foundation board along with the school board will need to again approve the revised agreement.

High School Principal

Curriculum Updates

I attended the monthly curriculum meeting at the Intermediate Unit which including the following topics: Mandated reporting, SAS Conference, updates to the Educator Effectiveness Tool, Information on the PSATs and Khan Academy, the new PDE website, TDA training, Career Education and Awareness, Project-Based Assessments, Huntingdon County Community College Update and Canvas training. There are a lot of initiatives that are coming from the new state administration that may change the way we do business in terms of assessing students on the Keystone Exams. With the new graduation requirements going into effect with the Class of 2017, PDE is working out the details for the Project-Based Assessments that will be offered to students who take the Keystones twice without scoring proficient or advanced. Those students will be required to pass either the Keystone Exams (Algebra I, Biology, Literature) or pass the Project-Based Assessment. The Project-Based Assessments can only be taken after a regular education student takes the Keystone Exam twice. There are a lot of questions regarding the

specifics of the Project-Based Assessment and how to administer them. The Project-Based Assessments are NOT included in the school's accountability; therefore, students who take the assessments will not be counted as scoring proficient or advanced in the school performance profile accountability process. The only way schools receive credit for students scoring advanced and proficient is by taking the PSSAs or Keystone Exams, not the Project-Based Assessment.

Keystone Exams

The Winter Keystone Exams will be held in January for the students that need to retake the Biology and Literature Exams. All students that are currently taking Algebra IB and Keystone Algebra are also taking the Algebra I Exam in January. These exams are all online.

Elementary Principal

Grant Applications

I am reviewing grant applications and updates.

Title I Program

I completed single funding certificates and split funding certificates for teachers and aides that work in the Title I program.

Project MAX

I have attended two Project MAX meetings (November and December) to become familiar with this new initiative.

I am very excited to be back at the elementary school. I will continue to meet with administration to review activities and other initiatives that affect the district and elementary school.

Technology Specialist

Donated Laptops

The Tuscarora Intermediate Unit donated to us seven Dell Latitude D820 laptops. Most of these have Intel Core 2 Duo processors, 2GB memory, and 80GB hard drives. I'll install Windows 7 on them. Two of them will be used to replace older laptops in the HS special ed cart. I'll talk to the principals as to where they want the others but will suggest they be used to replace broken laptops from the classrooms for the future laptop carts. As they are pre-owned, I may need to purchase batteries and/or memory for them.

Powerschool State Reporting

I participated in a conference call regarding Powerschool state reporting. The emphasis was on new fields / data extracts in Powerschool for the Early Warning System (EWS) and Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) PIMS submissions. The EWS data is optional for now. Anita Munson currently sends the civil rights data to PDE so I'll talk to her about possibly using Powerschool for this instead of how she currently does it. Both submissions will be part of PIMS in the near future.

High School Dean of Students

9th and 10th Grade English Classes

Miss Mackel's 9th and 10th grade English classes participated in a field trip on December 12, 2014 to Hagerstown, MD. The classes attended a showing of the movie "Mockingjay: Part 1." In preparation for the field trip, the classes read a book from the "Hunger Games" trilogy and studied the cultural and historical significances of that particular book. While partaking in this unit, the students were also asked to connect "The Hunger Games" to "Julius Caesar", which they previously had studied in class. These studies allowed the students to connect history, pop-culture, and literature at one time during the field trip.

Band Concert

The band concert occurred on Saturday, December 13 at the high school. Elementary band, consisting of 5th and 6th graders that had already been playing a year, performed 3 pieces of holiday music. Junior High Band performed 5 different pieces of music. Jazz Band, consisting of 7-12 grade players that practice every Thursday morning before school, played another 5 pieces. This extracurricular group has grown from about 5 or 6 members when it started 7 years ago to the current group having 19 members participating. Senior high band then closed the program with the song they played at the Christmas Parades and then another 5 pieces of music. The concert lasted approximately an hour and a half. The bands at all levels received excellent comments from the audience and played very strongly in the program. These comments included ones made by long time audience members that thought this was the strongest band concert that they had been to. So overall this was an excellent concert for both the students and audience members alike.

Visitors

On Tuesday, December 16, a representative from Hagerstown Community College visited with interested students.

On Wednesday, December 17, our marine recruiter visited 11th and 12th grade lunch.

Chorus

On Wednesday, December 17, the 18 member 7th Grade Tribe and 22 member Special 6th Grade Chorus travelled to the Warfordsburg Senior Center to sing songs from their Christmas programs. They sang a total of 14 songs. Both groups gave outstanding performances and were well received by the folks at the center. They received many compliments for their singing and their exemplary behavior.

Elementary Dean of Students

Christmas Program

The elementary school had their Christmas Program on Monday and Tuesday. It was very well attended, especially on Monday evening. The students worked hard and did a great job. The following students sang solos or duets: Kayleigh Cirtwell, Julia Barnhart, Abby Fischer, Laci Exline, Emily Keefer, Abby Silver, Jillian Hiller, Kenadee Morton, Ava Hull, Hannah Bolden, Kylie Golden, Mercedes Gordon, Maddie Queenie, and Lauren Varner. These students did a very nice job. They should be commended for having the courage to get up in front of their peers, as well as, the many adults and sing. In addition, the PTA did a beautiful job decorating the school and the auditorium with work from the students for the

program. Furthermore, the PTA provided refreshments for our fire police, state policemen, and bus driver that all provided assistance on a volunteer basis.

Yearbook page contest

We had a contest for the students to create a cover page for each class that will introduce their grade level in the elementary yearbook. The winners will be announced to the public in the January newsletter. The Kindergarten winner is Lily Donahue. 1st grade winner – Owen Oakmen; 2nd grade – Morgan Hixson; 3rd grade –Kaitlyn Gregory; 4th grade – Joshua Morgan; 5th grade – Kelly Biddle; 6th Grade – Kenadee Morton. In addition, we had an overall winner whose page will be the Title page in the year book. This winner was Rachel Bradshaw in 6th grade. Furthermore, our 6th grade students were given the choice for the theme of the cover of the yearbook. They chose the theme, “Our Life, Our Story.”

Sally Wilson

Sally Wilson has been mentoring her replacement Alison Ritchey this week as Alison has been in shadowing Sally. Alison was excited and full of energy and enthusiasm. Sally will be missed and said she will miss everyone here, but she is looking forward to enjoying her retirement.

Battle of the Windows

The teachers and students have went “all out” to decorate their doors and windows for the holiday season. The contest will end this afternoon, with the classroom winners being announced tomorrow. If anyone has not had the chance to see the doors and windows, I encourage to you come in and take a tour down each of the hallways to see the festive decorations. The students are constantly asking to add more to their room’s each day as they see the other classrooms. All the classes have been given a time today to tour the building and look at the other rooms.

Special Education Director

Project Max Pilot Program

Project Max Team met at the elementary school on 12/18/14. Team members include: special education teachers, regular education teacher, administration, parents, IU staff, and PATTAN staff. The grant for Project Max reimburses the school district for substitutes that are necessary for the teachers to attend the monthly training. Also, through Project Max members of Project Max are expected to attend conferences, such as the PDE Conference. Funds through the grant will provide tuition and hotel expenses for the conference. Michele Auker, Leah Eslinger, Michele Trail, Julianna Wert, and Diane Younker are all expected to attend the conference through the grant.

Comprehensive Evaluations

Currently, we have almost a dozen evaluations for the school psychologist to carry out. Having the big break is difficult in this process because we have 60 calendar days to carry out an evaluation. Weekends and days off of school count in the 60 days. Each evaluation requires several days to complete. Following the collection of the data has to be analyzed and a report generated. Ms. Bagley is beginning to get overwhelmed and concerned about the time frames to get these done and remain in compliance with IDEA. She is essentially only in our district two weeks out of a month, every other week.