

Administrative Bulletin to Board Members January 9, 2015

Superintendent

Superintendent Request

As I begin the second half of my contract I am respectfully requesting the board give consideration to add the following language to my contract.

“The Superintendent and/or his wife will be able to continue with the District sponsored insurances with the premiums to be paid by the Superintendent and/or his wife. This will continue for each individual until he or she reaches Medicare age”

Remaining Bond Proceeds

Because we will have substantial amount of funds left from the bond issue. I have been communicating with Gordan Walker and Joe Pierce to insure we cross our “T”s and dot our “I”s so that there is not a problem with arbitrage on these funds. We know at this time that the bond issue funds must be kept completely separate from district and used for one of two things, either to make bond payments or buy back bonds when they become callable. The bonds are callable in 2018. If we recall the later bonds in the series which are presently at 4.25% we would be able to save approximately \$18,000 per year over the 15 remaining years of those bonds.

Insurance Consortium

Deb and I will be meeting with our insurance consortium this Friday to review the financials for the other consortium that we are looking to merge with. Next Thursday a meeting will occur with both groups for a discussion and exchange on merging the two.

LERTA Ordinance

Monday evening the county commissioners met with the superintendents along with board presidents and vice presidents of each county school to review a LERTA ordinance that the county has passed. The commissioners are asking the three school districts consideration on passing this ordinance. The ordinance is attached for your review. Allen and Pat were able to attend the meeting. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend because of my sister’s viewing. However, all three superintendents met with the county commissioners prior to Christmas to review the ordinance.

Cell Phone Tower

Remember this will be on the agenda in January and final agreements are being reached at this time with our solicitor and the cell phone company attorney.

High School Principal

Keystone Exam Testing

Students who are currently enrolled in Algebra IB, Keystone Algebra and any junior that did not score Advanced or Proficient on the Keystone Algebra Exam participated in the state assessment on Wednesday, January 7 and Thursday, January 8. This is the Winter Keystone testing window that ends on Wednesday, January 21. Students will be taking the Literature Exam on Monday, January 12 and Tuesday, January 13 and the Biology Exam on Thursday, January 15 and Friday, January 16. This will

conclude the Winter Session. The next set of state testing will occur during the month of April with the PSSAs.

Leadership Training

Class officers and other students in leadership positions continue their training with the 28th Infantry Division with specific outcomes to enhance communication skills, raise awareness of leadership skills and help develop individual strengths and weaknesses. This training will occur on Monday, January 12 from 10:00a.m.-12:30 p.m. This is an invaluable experience that is being provided free of charge to the Southern Fulton High School. Mrs. Solomon and Mrs. Gordon are working diligently to train these students and provide experiences that will help them both academically and personally.

Elementary Principal

Ready to Learn Grant

I updated information requested in the Ready to Learn Grant and resubmitted this grant. The Department of Education has completed their review of the updated grant. Updated information was needed in the Program Details and Budget Details sections.

Faculty Budgetary Submission

I am beginning to reviewing faculty budgetary submissions for the 2015-2015 school year.

Students Enrolling with IEPs

I am meeting with other administrators to review the influx of students enrolling with IEPs at the elementary school.

Second Marking Period

As the end of the second marking period draws close, we will be finalizing grades to prepare for printing report cards.

Testing

PSSA testing grades will be administering the second test of the Classroom Diagnostic Test in the next few weeks. Review of the testing data will occur with assistance from Tim Miller from the IU upon completion of testing.

Kindergarten teachers completed individual testing for their students. Grades one and two teachers will continue to work on updating their marking period assessments.

Federal Programs

Nothing from my administrative part of the program.

High School Dean of Students

District Band

Mr. Arnold took three students to District Band. They will be there until Saturday. We will update next week with results and a full report.

Elementary Dean of Students

Dome Theater

The Dome Theater, which is a Mobile Planetarium will be coming next week. Each grade level was given a choice from 23 different lessons available that teach science lessons based on the position of the stars. The dome theater will be set up in the gym. The students will then enter into the theater that will look like a planetarium. At that point they will be instructed on the science lesson the teachers chose. We are looking forward to this program.

CDT Testing

The third through sixth grade teachers are preparing to begin their second round of CDT testing over the next few weeks. Once the students have completed the testing on the computer, results will be generated for the teachers to examine and analyze. The teacher will then, be able to see the student's strengths and weaknesses in various areas of the curriculum and adjust their instruction to meet the needs of the students.

Student of the Month

Each teacher chose a "Student of the Month" for the month of December. These are based on work ethic, behavior, attitude, positive growth, and responsibility. The list of names went home in the January Parent Newsletter. Donna Beale, the PTA President, took a group picture of the students on Wednesday, January 7 and will be submitting the picture to the Fulton County News. Look for this picture in next week's edition of the Fulton County News. Be sure to congratulate any of the students you may see.

Special Education Director

Project Max Pilot Program

Updated information

Michele Auker, Leah Shaw, Angela Washington, Diane Younker, and Theresa Corle will be attending the PDE conference which is funded by PDE – Project Max.

Project Max Team met at the elementary school on 12/18/14. The PD (Professional Development) centered on AT (Assistive Technology). The information presented was very informative and alerted the Southern Fulton Team, that there will need to be some major changes to IEP's (Individualized Educational Plans) under IDEA regulations. Assistive Technology is any low/medium/or high technical equipment that is used to help students be successful either academically, behaviorally, emotionally, and/or physically. According to Harrisburg, the majority of IEP's should have AT marked as a consideration and items purchased to assist students in being successful.

Long Term Substitute for Learning Support in the Elementary School

A long-term substitute will be hired for the remainder of the school year, as long as the need is present. The paraprofessional will be a long term substitute, which was budgeted for in the 2014/2015 special education budget.

Requisitions

Teachers have submitted their requisitions. Now administration have the daunting task of going through each and every requisition to determine the following: What are the needs and what are the wants? Teachers have been asked to justify the items in their budget, so that administration can best make recommendations to the board during our budget meetings. Meetings between administration and teachers will be ongoing until the process is completed.

Alternative Placements

Currently, Special Education has the lowest number of students enrolled at Alternative Educational Placements in several years.

Indicator #13 Training

On January 15, 2015, training on Transition for students with disabilities will be carried out at the high school. This will be the first of several trainings mandated by the state. The state has designated all parties associated with the school district who must attend the training. IU #11 will provide the training on Indicator 13. Mary Whittaker-Myers is the consultant responsible for Transition; therefore, she will carry out the training. Following the training there will be corrective action steps that we will need to implement in order to be compliant with the states requirements.