

Administrative Bulletin to Board Members February 13, 2015

Superintendent

New Laws Regarding Child Abuse

During 2014 the legislation chose to pass 23 new laws regarding child abuse and clearances. As I am sure you all realize this comes from the situation that occurred at Penn State. Many of these laws are in reality unfunded mandates for schools and organizations that work with children. All employees, coaches, volunteers and contractors must have clearances that are not less than 3 years old at all times beginning December 31, 2015. All employees, coaches, and bus contractors must also have a three hour mandatory reporting training because of these new laws. I have been meeting with all employees, coaches, and bus contractors to review the new requirements they must meet. Also, you will notice on the board agenda that when we are approving anyone for employment they will not be able to work with children until they have been cleared by the district office and all paperwork is in order.

Green Panels

I spoke with Chris several times this week but as of yet Lobar has not provided detailed costs. I have no problem with being patient as long as Lobar wishes to continue delaying the process because I am still holding over \$120,000 of their money. Even if I should get information prior to the board meeting I would not want to take action but simply review that information and have time to evaluate.

Athletic Field Advertising

At present time we have seven organizations that have purchased signs for the athletic field. Information on these signs has been given to Dana Signs and will be ready sometime during March.

High School Principal

Curriculum Update

On Tuesday, February 10, 2015, we held the 3rd round of data meetings for the upper elementary grades. Tim Miller was in attendance to offer assistance and expertise in the area of the Classroom Diagnostic Tools. The data meetings run the entire day, with grade level teams meeting for 2 hours each to review individual data, group data and then use that analysis to adjust instruction for both the entire grade as well as individual students. This time is extremely beneficial and I am eager to see how our students perform on the state assessments this year given this data focus.

Ms. Booth and Mrs. Hendershot, along with Mr. Payne, the Director of the Fulton County Career and Technical Center, met with Mr. David DiPasquale, the Director of the Bedford Career and Technical Center, to begin the process of adding the Administrative Assistance/Office Skills CIP Code to the FCCTC so that students will, once again, have the option of completing a Program of Study in the area of business. Ms. Booth will be teaching this program starting the 2015-2016 school year (pending PDE approval) at the Southern Fulton Jr/Sr High School and the program will be made available to all county students. As part of the meeting, we met with the business teachers at the Bedford Career Technical Center to fully understand the requirements for this program.

Elementary Principal

Department of Education Bureau of Special Education Meeting

Dr. Heidi Hayes Jacob presented information on using digital media and other new literacies in all classrooms. This presentation detailed using varied digital media to teach literacy. She highlighted the need to teach students prerequisite skills, such as keyboard fluency, to develop digital literacy. The presentation also shared information about using the digital media appropriately through the use of rubrics to ensure that students are learning the content and the use of the specific media. Dr. Jacobs also reviewed the process of developing a more focused curriculum map that provides the foundation for updates and review of curriculum. The use of technology in assisting learning was a common theme of the meeting and trainings provided more in depth understanding of the uses of technology in assisting students to learn and share their knowledge. This is more critical in reviewing transitional needs of students.

Transition Meetings

Transition meetings were held on February 9, 2015, to review the documented needs of potential kindergarten students. This will allow a more seamless transition and continuation of services when the students begin to attend the elementary.

Data Team Meetings (Grades 3-6)

Grade Level Data Team meetings were held with teachers of grades 3-6 on February 10, 2015. Mr. Tim Miller, IU Consultant, assisted the teachers in reviewing student Classroom Diagnostic Test Data and comparing student growth in regards to attainment of understanding of the PA Core Standards. Discussions of specific student needs as well as global needs of the students were reviewed. Teachers are using this data to help drive the student instruction and to meet the educational needs of their students. Materials and recourses needed to provide instruction were also discussed and reviewed.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration will be held at the Elementary School on March 4 and 5. Parents who have students who will be five by September 1, 2015 are encouraged to call the elementary office at 717-294-3400 to register their child. Developmental screenings for incoming students will occur at registration.

High School Dean of Students

FAFSA Day

Dan Wrey, our PHEAA representative, met with students and parents at Southern Fulton Jr/Sr High School on Friday, February 6, 2015 from 10:00AM until 3:00PM.

Mr. Wrey had a classroom presentation where he reviewed financial aid and the process to obtain it. He also discussed student loans and borrowing money from other sources. He then met with parents for a one hour FAFSA completion session.

Spirit Week

Students participated in the second annual Spirit Week Battle of the Classes. Each day featured a dress up theme. Students could also earn points by bringing in jeans to donate, canned goods, and Box Tops for Education. The week culminated with a Pep Rally and "Battle of the Classes". For the second straight year, the class of 2016 won the Spirit Cup, which will be delivered to our school for display in the near future. Overall, we had 896 students participate in dress-up days, 64 pairs of jeans, 199 canned goods, and 700 Box Tops for Education.

Homecoming Dance

The Homecoming Dance was held on Saturday night. Nearly 250 students attended. The crowd looked great in their semi-formal attire. There were no problems, and a great time was had by all. Sara Carnahan and Spencer Lampley were crowned Homecoming Queen and King.

Recruiters

On Monday, we were visited by our new Navy recruiter: Steve Robinette. On Tuesday, we were visited by our Marine recruiter: Sgt. Barron.

Elementary Dean of Students

W.I.N. Lessons

Tammy Keener was here from Women in Need this week to finish the guidance lessons with the 4th grade students. The students were given a lesson on using the Internet and social media safely.

Pennies for Patients

In March the elementary school will be collecting spare change for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. We will be having a kick-off assembly to inform the students. I am currently working collaboratively with the society to set up classroom websites where money can be donated as well.

Technology Specialist

Technology Purchase Status

All laptops and iPads purchased for specific teachers have been configured and given to the appropriate teachers.

HS: Mr. Leese's 30 laptops and cart containing them have been put in his room. He has been using them as have other teachers when needed for CDT and Keystone testing. The iPad cart for Mrs. Dickerhoff has been placed in her room. The 24 iPads and their cart for Mrs. Layton is in her room. The Macbook Pro purchased to synch / backup Mrs. Layton's iPads is on her cart as well.

ES: The carts with 25 laptops each for 3rd grade and 4th grade have been placed in their classrooms. There were 20 other laptops that have arrived. They are in use by various teachers. There are 30 laptops that we have not yet received as part of this order. I've been told by the vendor that these models have been discontinued and that they will be replaced by newer models at a reduced cost. Once they arrive, I'll configure them and finish the laptop carts for grades 5 and 6. For teachers that wanted them now, I've given several of them their LCD projectors so that they can use them until the projectors can be mounted.

PIMS Update

I'm working with Mrs. Mellott and the principals to have the proper data inputted into Powerschool for the Spring Keystone Pre-Code label submission and the PVAAS Update submission. Both are due in March. The first submission will be used to create labels for the Keystone exams. The PVAAS submission information will be copied from PIMS to the PVAAS system by PDE at some point.

Special Education Director

Project Max Pilot Program - Updated information

Michele Auker, Leah Shaw, Angela Washington, Diane Younker, and Theresa Corle attended the PDE conference which was funded by PDE – Project Max. Each attendee will be getting together and deciding on two or three things that we would like to implement from the conference. Also, information that was obtained will be shared with the appropriate staff members who were unable to attend.

There will be a PD (Professional Development) centered on AT (Assistive Technology) on February 25th at the high school for special education staff. Erin McManamon is the AT consultant for IU 11. It was recommended that we have her come to the district to discuss what is expected by the state when it concerns documentation on students IEP's. Also, there will be discussions concerning low, middle, and high tech that should be considered for every student who has a deficit(s), that prevent them from being able to access the content and/or have expressive language concerns.

Long Term Substitute for Learning Support in the Elementary School

A paraprofessional who originally was placed in Kindergarten to help students had to be moved to a Learning Support Classroom because she is considered "Highly Qualified" by the state of Pennsylvania. In order to work in a special education classroom all staff must be highly qualified or all parents have to be notified that they are not highly qualified. It was easier to move a paraprofessional and place the long term substitute in a Kindergarten classroom.

Indicator #13 Training

Training was carried out on January 15, 2015. The school guidance counselor, high school principal, Vo-Tech Director, and the special education staff were involved. The meeting was helpful in the sense that it is clear to see that SF is doing more for transition than what is assumed. The breakdown is that this information is not being shared across to all parties

involved. EX: Vo-Tech testing, OVR testing, guidance trainings and college visits, job fairs, and anything that relates to transition have to be shared with the student's case manager, so that it can be documented. As far as the state is concerned if it is written down, then it never happened.

Special Education

The number of students being identified in the elementary school is expanding to the point that some regular education classrooms have fewer students than special education classrooms. Under IDEA 04 the number of students permitted on a teacher's caseload is clearly outlined. We are very close to having a maximum number of students on several caseloads. Some shifting has occurred, but some very difficult decisions will have to be made in the near future in order to be in compliance with the state mandates.

Special Education Plan

Several Supervisors of Special Education have a meeting set up to meet with the Point of Service Contact, which is our state monitor for special education. We will review together the new mandates and expectations to be placed into our special education plans. The plan when completed by a SF team, which consists of a principal, parent, regular education teacher, special education teacher, and the Supervisor of Special Education must be presented to the Board and be open for public comments for 60 days. This plan is approximately 100 pages and serves as a plan for the next two years.