

## **Administrative Bulletin to Board Members March 13, 2015**

*Superintendent*

### **Letter from Senators**

This week I received a letter from four of the top Republican Senators advising me against adjusting the school district's primary budget to reflect Governor Wolf's educational proposal. In my years as a superintendent I have never put a governor's proposal in my budget before it was passed by the Legislature. I honestly find their letter somewhat insulting. After advising us not to use Governor Wolf's figures they then go on to try to convince me they support public education. I attached a copy of their letter and also a copy of my letter in response to theirs. For the first time since the early 90's we again have a proposal by a governor to eliminate property tax. Governor Wolf's proposal regarding property tax would eliminate all property tax in our district and replace it with an additional state income tax. The state income tax would be increased from 3.07% to 3.7% along with raising the sales tax from 6% to 6.6% in order to accomplish eliminating property tax in many districts. I find many of Governor Wolf's budget proposal items common sense solutions to fund schools. I also whole heartily support his idea of reducing funding to cyber charter schools because many are operated by for-profit organizations.

### **House Bill 707**

On a positive side of politics, Representative Topper is introducing House Bill 707 which eliminates prevailing wage from public school projects. I have sent a letter to Representative Topper in support of House Bill 707. If prevailing wage had been eliminated for us prior to the high school renovation it would have saved us a minimum of \$1.7 million to approximately \$2.2 million on the project.

### **CANVAS**

CANVAS training for administrators will occur next week. The training for the first group of teachers will occur the first part of April.

### **Athletic Field Advertising**

The advertising signs we have received, to date, are being processed and should be finished within the next two to three weeks.

### **Easter Monday as a Make-Up Day**

On the board agenda we will be requesting to use Easter Monday as a make-up day. Next year's calendar which is being submitted for your approval this month has Easter Monday marked as a possible make-up day.

*Elementary Principal*

### **Kindergarten Registration**

The second day of Kindergarten Registration was held at the Elementary School on March 10, 2015. This was a scheduled make-up date due to the school cancellation on March 6, 2015.

## **Canvas Training**

Five elementary school teachers and district administration will be part of the Canvas Pilot and will receive training on the use of the resource in the next few weeks. The elementary teachers who will be trained are: Laura Northcraft, Grade 1 Teacher; Amanda Brumbaugh, Grade 2 Teacher; Herb Brambley, Grade 4 Teacher; Jamie Shaw; Grade 5 Teacher; and Ellen Glunt; Special Education Teacher.

## **PTA**

The Southern Fulton PTA will hold a Family Movie night at the elementary school on Friday, March 13, 2015, starting at 6:00 PM. Preliminary information shows that this will be a well-attended activity for our families. We are so thankful for all of the opportunities that the PTA provides for our students!

## ***Elementary Dean of Students***

### **Pennies For Patients**

We had a brief kick-off assembly on Tuesday for the Pennies for Patients fundraiser. A cancer survivor from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society did the presentation. So far the classrooms have raised over \$800 towards our \$3500 goal.

### **Camp Cadet**

Representatives from the PA State Police and the Juvenile Probation Office visited the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to explain the Camp Cadet program to the students and provide permission slips to those that are interested in participating in the program in June.

### **Child Study Team**

We held child study team meetings on those students that are at academic or behavioral risk. These meetings also include the parents of the students. We work together in these meetings to develop interventions that the teachers can provide in the classroom or the parents can provide at home that will help these students be more successful.

### **Spring Pictures**

On Friday LifeTouch will be here to take Spring Classroom Pictures for the students.

## ***High School Principal***

### **Career Link**

This information was given out to every student between the ages of 16 and 18 years old. Joyce Lynch has been doing this program for a couple years at the high school and this year we had enough students to run two classes. The students attend 10 classes, go on three job shadow experiences and participate in a mock interview. It's a very good program that Joyce Lynch through Career Link provides to our students.

EARN \$300.00

Earn money while you learn job search techniques and experience job shadowing opportunities.

1 class period a day/1 day a week for 10 weeks. Contact your high school guidance counselor for more details and eligibility.

## **ESL – by Angela Adams**

Miss Adams will be speaking to Dr. Robert Lessman's language class at Shippensburg University. Dr. Lessman invited Miss Adams to speak to his class regarding ESL state laws and necessary translations during enrollment, parent-teacher conferences etc. Dr. Lessman came personally and translated twice at our school during the summer, without any form of reimbursement, and has been instrumental in obtaining translators for our school district at no cost to the district whatsoever. He was impressed with our program and especially how we prepared in advance for our translation needs and asked that I share this preparation and "practical planning" with students who are intending to either be professional translators or use another language in a professional capacity upon graduation.

## ***High School Dean of Students***

### **STEM Education**

This week at the high school we celebrated and focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Education.

Students travelled on Tuesday to West Virginia University to visit the engineering department. They were treated to a hands on experience, working with current students and faculty members to build catapults.

On Thursday, students travelled to Hagerstown Community College to visit their engineering department. HCC has focused on STEM for several years, and has developed several impressive programs. It is a truly viable route for many of our students who wish to pursue education after high school.

### **Pi Day**

On Friday we celebrate Pi Day. Pi day is actually on Saturday (3.14), so we are celebrating a day early. This year is a once in a century Pi day, as it is 3.1415. Couple that with 9:26:53 in the morning and evening, and we will twice experience 3.141592653. This will happen again in 2115. In honor of this great event, we are having several festivities, including a pie bake-off and sale. Students are also encouraged to dress like “nerds” for the occasion, as well!

## ***Technology Specialist***

### **High School Café Register Computer**

The point-of-sale computer at the high school appears to be broken. It will not power on at all. I temporarily put a laptop and an iPad there with an app called Splashtop. This allows the cashier the same touch screen as they are used to. FSS has sent a loaner POS all-in-one computer for us to use for 30 days. Instead of paying \$1,300 for a new POS all-in-one computer from FSS, I'm going to order a pre-owned computer similar to what our teachers are currently using along with a 17" touch screen monitor. Price for these combined is a little over \$600. If for some reason this solution doesn't work, both the computer and touch screen monitor can be used elsewhere then we'd need to order the FSS all-in-one POS.

### **Elementary School Door Computer**

The hard drive on the computer used to control the elementary school doors has failed. I was able to replace the failed hard drive and install the door program from a backup. There was only a period of about an hour when this computer was not available for Mr. Bain to use. This computer only controls door settings, it does not need to be operational for the doors to lock/unlock at specified times.

### **Elementary School Laptops**

I have returned the 31 laptop computers that were to replace the 31 that were discontinued. These newer ones did not have the specifications to meet our needs. The company is shipping 31 newer laptops that exceed the specs of the original ones purchased. They should arrive in the next day or two. I'll use some of them for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade laptop cart and the rest for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade laptop cart. If all goes well, all laptops will be able to be used by Friday March 20.

### **Canvas Training**

I'm scheduled with some administrators to take part in Canvas administrator and technical support training on Monday March 16 from noon to 1:00pm. We have tentatively scheduled the two-hour teacher training for Tuesday March 31 from 9:00am to 11:00am. All training is to be held via webinars – will use one computer to connect to the instructor's computer with a camera, microphone, and speakers.