

## **Administrative Bulletin to Board Members May 1, 2015**

*Superintendent*

### **Cell Tower**

I have been in communication with your solicitor regarding the cell tower settlement. I asked the following questions:

1. Are we able to appeal?
2. Why doesn't the county pay since they assessed incorrectly?
3. If appealed what is the likelihood of a different outcome much more favorable to the district?
4. What would be an approximate cost to appeal?

The solicitor has responded in the following way "In the past cell tower calculations were all over the place because there was no bench mark or case law out there to formulate a calculation. If we were to appeal estimated costs would be at least \$10,000 for legal fees plus additional cost for expert fees. During this process the experts were included to provide opinions on all cell tower assessments. It is very unlikely that they would provide us a lower assessment value then agreed to in the settlement. Even if we would be remotely successful at trial the cell company would be able to appeal and could at that time ask for the interest to be included in the settlement."

As you know this was tabled on the last agenda and will come up on the May agenda. If there is additional information you would like please let me know and I will try to obtain it.

### **Pre K Grant**

As indicated at the last board meeting we are again applying for the Pre K Grant. In order to be able to keep salaries under the percentage allowed within the grant we are looking at partnering with outside agencies.

An in depth explanation is as follows. We can house 20 slots per classroom at a grant amount of \$8,400 per slot. Twenty times \$8,400 equals an amount of \$168,000. The grant indicates that at the absolute most 45% of that fund can be used toward salaries and benefits of teacher and aide. Even with hiring a 1<sup>st</sup> year teacher and aide our contracts are such that we would be paying way over the \$74,000 which is 45% of the total. We are presently exploring a number of different ways to solve this problem. We are confident we have several solutions that we are going to be able to select from to be able to solve the problem.

We have already submitted our intent and received notification that we are able to proceed with applying for the grant.

### **Penn Dot**

On Wednesday I attended a meeting at the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation building in McConnellsburg in order to review future road and bridge projects that could potentially interfere with bus traffic.

### **Elementary Entrance**

As indicated at the board meeting, the securing of the elementary entrance is out on bid with bids due on May 14, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. Bids will be opened after the deadline and tabulations will be provided for the board to review at the May 19, 2015, board meeting. Once reviewed the board may decide to accept the lowest bid or reject all bids. I fully understand that this may seem a rather expensive process but the decision will have to be made whether or not to provide the elementary students with this extra layer of

security. It is important to note that the funds for this project were original included in the bond issue. I believe this is something we should give strong consideration to since it was part of the original bond issue and does provide an additional layer of security.

### *Elementary Principal*

#### **Federal Programs**

All updated allocations have been submitted and are under review for approval.

#### **PSSA Testing/PVAAS**

PSSA testing will conclude this week with Grade 4 Science Testing. The elementary school was monitored on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, during the Grade 4 Science Testing. Information will be shared by the Department of Education to Mr. Hann regarding the visit and monitoring. PVAAS Roster verification has begun and will conclude with the LEA Verification Phase from June 1-14, 2015. Mr. Tim Miller from the IU will be assisting in reviewing percentages of time and responsibility as part of the verification of data.

#### **CDT Testing/Events**

The final CDT testing for the 2014-2015 school year will conclude during the month of May at the elementary school for students in grades 3-6. Data teams will meet to review results for future students and curricular planning. Many student events are being held in the next several weeks at the elementary school. Such events include the Elementary Band and Chorus Concert on April 30, 2015, and other events throughout the month of May.

#### **24 Game Competition at IU 11**

On Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> three remarkable students headed to the IU 11 to compete in the 24 Mathematics Competition. Rachel Bradshaw, Levi Barnard, and Carson Elbin represented SFSD with charisma, kindness, and perseverance. The day started with two rounds of normal 24 card play. The students had to use addition, subtraction, division, and/or multiplication with the 4 numbers displayed on the card to come up with 24 as a product, quotient, sum, or difference. First round scores were as followed: Carson 54 points, Levi, 56 points, and Rachel with an astounding 129 points. The second round deviated from the normal 24 game play. It consisted of a card that had three numbers on the right and three numbers on the left, and the students had to solve for a variable that would provide 24 as a product, quotient, sum, or difference for both. It is hard to imagine the level of difficulty involved without experiencing it for yourself. Nine students were selected from the highest scorers of the previous round. Carson, Levi, and Rachel each earned places in this round. Levi and Rachel both earned victories, while Carson bowed out short of a complete SFSD Championship round. The third and final round consisted of three students solving for a common variable that would provide 24 as a product, quotient, sum, or difference for three sets of numbers. Levi Barnard finished in second place, while Rachel Bradshaw brought home the gold. Rachel Bradshaw had the most impressive day of any of the students in the challenge.

## *Elementary Dean of Students*

### **24-Game challenge**

Three students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade participated in the 24-game challenge at IU 11 on Wed. The students were Rachel Bradshaw, Levi Barnard, and Carson Elbin. They represented the school very well. Carson scored enough points to go on to the second round and therefore received a silver medal. Both Rachel and Levi made it to the third round. Levi won the gold medal. Rachel won the entire challenge and received a trophy.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Panorama Photo**

LifeTouch School Pictures were here on Tuesday to take the 6<sup>th</sup> grade's class picture.

### **Elementary Spring Band & Chorus Concert**

The Elementary Band and Chorus students performed for the elementary school on Thursday afternoon. The students have been practicing very hard the past few months. They did a wonderful job! They will also perform for the public on Thursday evening.

## *High School Principal*

### **VFW Voice of Democracy Competition**

Spencer Lampley received a check for \$500 on Sunday, April 19th for being Southern Fulton's winner in the VFW Voice of Democracy competition. This year's theme was: "Why Veterans are Important to our Nation's History and Future." Spencer will be attending college in Florida and will be majoring in chemical engineering.

### **Project-Based Assessments**

On Monday, April 27, 2015, IUs 6, 8, 10 and 11 hosted a collaborative video conference event to review the process of Project Based Assessments. We were very fortunate to have with us, Dr. Jean Dyszel, a PDE consult for the PBAs to join us to answer our questions. We also had Holly Pence for IU 6 who tutored students for the PBA to share her experience with us. In addition, I shared with Southern Fulton, the plan in regards to how they are going to implement the PBA.

### **Curriculum Council Meeting**

On Tuesday, April 28, 2015, I attended the monthly curriculum meeting at the IU. Topics included Dual Enrollment, Summer Leadership Institute, Blue Ribbon Schools, Educator Effectiveness, New Teacher Orientation, and Summer Professional Development Opportunities. There are going to be a lot of changes coming with the new Governor but most will take some time. Expect changes to occur over the next 2 years. It is vital to stay connected to the IU for frequent updates.

### **English Department Meeting**

On Wednesday, April 29 there was an English Department meeting to review the summer reading lists, non-fiction texts/readings, AP Literature – summer assignments and course enrollment for 2015-2016, PVAAS roster verification and text-dependent analysis trainings/questions. In addition, we talked about the ELA PSSA exam and the Keystone Literature Exam. There is a cooperative effort to incorporate non-fiction texts in all grade levels in order to assist with the Biology/Science scores.

### **PSSAs**

The official window for the Science PSSAs closes on Friday, May 1, 2015. At this time, there are several students who will need to make-up portions of the ELA, Math and Science assessments. Those make-ups will occur throughout the testing window and then any outstanding assessments will be made up beginning on Monday, May 4, 2015 as this opens the official make-up window for the PSSAs. Please note that this does NOT end the testing at the high school. The window for the Keystone Exams is May 13-27. We will be giving the Literature, Biology and Algebra I exam throughout that time.

### *High School Dean of Students*

#### **Envirothon Team**

On the 28th, Southern Fulton's Envirothon teams dominated the competition. Teams from Southern Fulton finished 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th. The top team will advance to the state competition.

#### **Scholastic Scrimmage**

On April 24th, Scholastic Scrimmage travelled to Atlanta to participate in the Small School National Championship. They qualified based on their excellent performances earlier in the year. The team finished 51st in the United States, with Christina Bright ranked as the 55th best individual small school player in the country.

### *Technology Specialist*

#### **eRate 15-16**

I submitted our eRate Form 471 for the 2015-2016 school year. I included the district's telephone service and adding / replacing network equipment at our elementary school so that there will be wireless access throughout the building. If approved, we would be reimbursed about \$5,700 for our telephone expenses. Of the approximately \$20,000 cost to add to / replace our network equipment at the elementary school, eRate would give us about \$16,000 so we would be responsible for about \$4,000.

Since we won't know if eRate approves these until about September or October of this year, we would not implement the elementary school network project until the summer of 2016. As such, I won't put in my budget the \$4,000 that we would need to pay until the 2016-2017 school year.

### *Facilities Manager*

The baseball and softball fields were prepared and made ready for play. Approximately three ton of leftover infield mix was added to the softball field last summer to fill low spots in the infield. This spring we added 3 ton of new clay to the surface of the entire infield to help it dry. After the season is over we will be adding 2 more ton of the new clay, that will be mixed together with what was put down last summer and the top layer of infield clay that had been put down sometime in the past. Special clay will also be placed at the pitcher's mound and home plate. We are also checking to see what we can do to get the score boards to work as they should, the signal isn't as strong as it should be when it reached the dugout if it reaches it at all. I understand this is how it has always been except for the fact that the baseball controller hasn't been taken care of. The existing wireless controllers are no longer available and replacements cost over \$600.00 each. Direct wired controllers cost approximately \$300.00, each, not including installation. First, I am going to have someone look at what we already have to see if the baseball controller can be repaired and both signals boosted. Also, a scoreboard in the gym has been damaged and the main and backup controllers have been damaged and need repaired.