

Administrative Bulletin to Board Members

August 28, 2015

Superintendent Report

Cross Country Trail

Wednesday I was able to walk the newly installed cross country trail and view firsthand the excellent work the volunteers put into installing the trail and cleaning up the other trails. By walking the trail one thing that became very clear is that our boundary lines are not marked and impossible to find in places. It appears that the one neighbor is pasturing horses on the school's property. This in itself is not a major problem but if they were to continue to do so for a period of 20 years there is some legal standing that may indicate they may have a claim to that property because of this I would strongly recommend that the property lines be surveyed and clearly marked. I spoke with Mrs. Schetrompf and will look at putting funds in next year's budget to be able to do this.

Skylights in Gym

The skylights have been repaired and during the last rain there was no water at all coming in the gym. We will keep continuous watch on this and make sure they are back if we have the slightest bit of problems.

The skylights were still under a warranty and Mr. Bain insured they were fixed under that warranty.

Opening of School

The first few days of school seemed to go relatively quietly without any major problems. One exception has been the computer in the elementary cafeteria which has had several problems and Mr. Leisher has been looking into those.

Final Walkthrough for High school Renovation

Contractors and architects were here Tuesday for the final walkthrough. In Mr. Leese's room on the lower floor we have had problems with rain coming in. They worked on this problem last spring and we did not have problems when we had all the rain in late spring early summer however with this most recent rain we once again had rain come into the room. Lobar is aware of the situation and will be back next week in an attempt to find the problem.

Canvas

As indicated last year Canvas is a learning management system that allows you to place your course content online or develop an online course. As we move forward with the process of using many online resources and placing courses online it is necessary to begin to open the school district internet to such sites as Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox and Earthlink. When you do this there is always a greater risk that students can gain access to inappropriate sites therefore we will be redoing Internet Usage Guidelines permission slips for 9th through 12th grade with the parent signoff on these additional guidelines.

This year, to begin our first step we will be relaxing some of the restrictions for students in grades 9th through 12th. The last two districts that I worked as Superintendent the district's internet was open and used to access many resources. With doing this teachers had to accept responsibility for greater supervision of their online students. I am sure that throughout the year it will be necessary for us to deal with at least one student and possibly up to 6 who will stray into unacceptable areas of usage.

High School Principal

Mellott Company Open House

I attended the Open House sponsored by the Mellott Company in conjunction with the Fulton County AVTS on August 19, 2015. The FCAVTS, Mellott Company and sending school districts are working together to create a diversified occupational co-op for students that are qualified to participate in such an endeavor. I am pleased to say that Southern Fulton High School had an overwhelming majority of students and parents in attendance. Currently, we have had three students apply from Southern Fulton and they will participate in interviews within the next two weeks. This is a GREAT opportunity for our students, as well as students from Fulton County. This is a new program this year which we hope to grow annually.

Teacher In-Service/Training

The two days of teacher in-service was filled with new policy information as well as mandated trainings. This year, teachers were trained in suicide prevention as deemed mandatory by Act 71 along with the mandatory reporting training required by the legislation passed last year in conjunction with the PSU mandates. In addition, teachers had professional development using the Canvas Learning System, SmartBoards, ESL, Special educations requirements and IEP reviews. The two days were packed with information that is vital for instructors annually.

First Day

The first day of school went well in both buildings! Thanks to the Dean of Students in both buildings, all things went smoothly.

Open House

The high school open house will be held on Thursday, August 25, 2015 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. We will run open house with a brief introduction in the auditorium and then proceed through a full bell schedule so that parents can visit each teacher according to class/period.

Technology Specialist

Parent Access to Powerschool

There is a new way for parents to access Powerschool. The old way is no longer available. The new way is for parents to create their own username/password and link their children to their new account. This way, with one account, they can see all their children. There have been problems with some parents being able to do this. The two primary reasons are that they are incorrectly using the student username/password to link their children to their account. They must use their old parent username/password. The other problem has been that both the ID and Password to link their children to their account are case sensitive. Some are using uppercase when must be lowercase.

It appears, that the letter they received a while ago with their parent username/password to access Powerschool the old way had their passwords converted to all uppercase even though in Powerschool they are all lowercase. Currently, 126 parents have successfully created accounts.

DRC Testing Program

As is usually the case, there is a new program that must be installed on any computer in which the state Classroom Diagnostic Testing (CDT) and/or Keystone Exams are to take place on. This requires the old program to be removed and the new one to be installed. There is also an option to do these on iPads that

have at least iOS version 8.1. If there is an interest in doing this, I'll have to test first to verify it works. I participated in a DRC Testing Technology Coordinator training webinar Wednesday August 12, 2015 in preparation for this new testing program.

15-16 School Year Processing

I performed the end-of-year process in Powerschool which advanced the student grade levels. I added the new kindergarten students and updated homeroom information for all ES students. I uploaded HS home room assignments and locker information into Powerschool and created ES class rosters in Powerschool.

I updated the cafeteria system, bus system, and library system with the 15-16 information. I updated the nurse program at each building later this week – prefer to wait until any changes to homerooms are made.

PIMS

On Wednesday August 19, 2015 I attended the IU participating in the monthly Data Quality Network meeting. This meeting focused on PIMS changes for the 15-16 school year. One significant change I'm aware of so far is that students who withdrew over the summer must still be reported to PDE via the October 1, 2015 PIMS submission. This means we cannot withdraw students in Powerschool even if they are no longer here. Powerschool is working on a way such that we can withdraw students and still have them reported in the October 1, 2015 PIMS submission.

High School Dean of Students

First Week of School

The high school has had a wonderful first week of school. Open House will be held on Thursday, August 27th. The Rocky Gap Reward Trip for 8th and 9th graders will be held on Friday, August 28th. Fall sports practices are underway, as are rehearsals for Aladdin.

Elementary Dean of Students

Open House

A large percentage of our parents attended Open House/Meet the Teacher Night at the Elementary school on Thursday, August 20. We had representatives from the PTA, G.E.M. Nutrition Program, the Southern Fulton Educational Foundation, Center for Families, and the Bible Released Program set up in the lobby to provide information for parents about their programs.

CDT Testing

Our teachers in grades 3-6 have scheduled their first round of CDT (Classroom Diagnostic Test) testing to take place in the next few weeks. This test has been updated and will be more closely aligned to the Common Core Standards. Our teachers and administration hope to use this as we did last year. We plan to have the teachers examine the testing data to see the strengths and weaknesses of each student. This will provide guidance as to the areas where the students need instruction.