

Administrative Bulletin to Board Members

January 15, 2016

Superintendent Report

Pre K

We have received written approval of the Pre K program for the remainder of this year and the following two years. We are presently working to get that program up and running. We have a written commitment from the State to provide funding in the specific amount of \$59,925 for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year. We are hoping to have things operational by February 8, 2016 which will allow us to spend the money that is allocated for this year. It is important to note that this is Federal dollars and therefore is not contingent upon the budget discussion in the State.

Board Meeting

Please remember that there is a possibility that I will not be at the board meeting on Tuesday evening. Please review your agenda and information items and if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me.

High School/Elementary Principal Report

Keystone Exams

Most of this week at the high school was consumed with the Keystone Exams. The Biology and Algebra I Exams were given all week in the morning, except for Wednesday with the 2 hour delay. Friday was designated as a make-up day for the students that were absent during the regularly scheduled exams. All students have taken the exams except 2. The final make-up exams will occur on Tuesday, January 19 and Wednesday, January 20. The final day in the testing window is January 20. Students all worked very hard and took the exams seriously. I am very proud of them!

PreK Teacher and Paraprofessional Interviews

Given the news that SFSD has received the PreK Counts grant at a prorated amount, we conducted interviews for the teacher and paraprofessional positions on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 in conjunction with the Fulton County Family Partnership. We do have a few questions that need to be answered by our PDE contact and are patiently waiting to have that person assigned so that we can move forward with the program. It is our goal to have the program up and running by Monday, February 8, 2016.

Elementary Data Meetings

On Wednesday, January 13, 2016, we held the second data meeting of the year. This meeting focused on the second round of the Classroom Diagnostic Tests (CDTS), PVAAS/eMetrics and the follow-up from the Text Dependent Analysis trainings that occurred last week. Our students are already showing growth from the assessment that was conducted in September. Teachers in grades 4-6 were very pleased with the work the students were able to do with the TDA assignment and are continuing to progress. The teachers are working diligently to integrate the TDAs into all class subjects.

Student-Athlete Leadership Summit

On Thursday, January 14 six Southern Fulton students (2-Jrs, 2-Sophomores, and 2-Freshman) were invited to attend the "*Playing Beyond the Scoreboard*" leadership seminar at Everett High School. This seminar was conducted by renowned author and speaker, Craig Hillier. The seminar was filled with ideas and information that team leaders/captains can use in the playing arena, the hallways of school, in the classroom, outside the school, as well as at home. Our student athletes found this seminar to be most inspiring and beneficial. The 6 students who were nominated by coaches and administration were:

Juniors: Olivia Mottern and Dylan Gordon

Sophomores: Madison Breeze and Dylan Ensor

Freshman: Drew Gordon and Cooper Ritz

High School Dean of Students Report

Spirit Week

It has been a fun and exciting Spirit Week. Participation is high, and 252 students are scheduled to attend the dance, which is a great amount for our small school. Tomorrow (Friday) is the annual battle of the classes pep rally, where the Class of 2016 will look to win for the third straight year.

Elementary Dean of Students Report

Data Meetings

Grades 3- 6 completed their second CDT assessments (Classroom Diagnostic Tests) by the beginning of this week. Then, on Wednesday Tim Miller from IU 11 and Mike Breslin from the high school joined us at the elementary to have grade level data meetings where we analyzed the results of the tests and collaborated ideas to improve and guide instruction to meet the specific needs of the students.

Lock Down Drill

The elementary will be having another practice lock down drill this month. This drill will not include the police. However, we would like to continue to periodically practice this drill to prepare our students and staff for this unfortunate event. We had a meeting with the staff to review the procedures for both the practice drill and a real event.

Special Education Director Report

Special Education Notes

- Corrective Action Verification Update Notice for Southern Fulton SD (REG) for School Year: 2013-2014 (Improvement Plan Closed and Approved on 1/12/16.
May of 2014 the school district was monitored for Special Education Compliance. The District had to create a plan of action to demonstrate to the State that we were working on a plan to make improvements in the following areas: LRE, Drop Out Rates, Emotional Supports/Discipline/Positive Behavior Supports
The plan was created and data had to be maintained for one year that supported that the District had evidence to support the improvements to the listed areas. Data had to be submitted and approved by the Point of Service Advisor appointed by the state.

- Mrs. Shannon Eye has been reappointed to serve as Southern Fulton School District's Special Education Advisor as of 1/1/16, she replaced Ms. Debra Sotack.
- With the exception of one teacher all special education teachers have been observed and formal evaluations carried out. Finally with the states approval of the SPP scores, last year's evaluations were completed.
- Special Education Paraprofessionals are now being observed and hopefully will be completed by March of 2016.
- PASA assessment materials are beginning to arrive and will require an extensive amount of preparation to prepare the material for testing. The PASA Assessments have been completely revamped and are in direct alignment with state standards. The entire state expects these scores to go down significantly and this will be a baseline year. The staff has been working diligently to prepare students for the upcoming changes. The changes to the assessment are going to require changes to the curriculum, which will require additional resources to meet the state's new requirements. The changes were not finalized until the summer of 2015, which did not give districts an opportunity to obtain the necessary resources to prepare fully for the assessments.