

Superintendent's Report

October 26th, 2014

BOARD UPDATE

Why we do what we do! – It has been a very busy, but great start to our year. With that in mind, sometimes we can get so focused on doing the work we need to stop and take stock in why we do all this work in the first place. I thought this photo could serve as a great image to help do just that.

The energy and hope for the future these students have is just terrific. Imagine in just a few years these kids walking across the stage getting their diploma. For me and hopefully for you too, this photo is a wonderful reminder of why we do what we do in our schools.



Students Making Fire Starters for a Fundraiser – Jim Nieman (HS CTE Instructor) is working with a group of middle school and high school students to help them make fire starters out of recycled materials to sell at the upcoming Christmas Bazaar as a fundraiser. These students are part of the LEO program. LEOs is a program that helps students become involved in community service projects. This program is on this month's Board agenda to seek formal approval to accept the LEOs as an official program in both the high school and middle school to meet the new expectations of Ends-3. The LEOs program

started two-years ago as a community based group and has seen steady growth with now more than 30 members. Our hope is to have at least 100 students across our secondary grades involved in this international program that is connected to Lions Clubs around the world.

Railing Damage on the K-8 Campus – You may have seen this bent railing on the K-8 campus during your travels. A patron's car somehow took the corner too tight and ran into it bending the railing. We have since then received reimbursement and are in the process of repairing the damage.



District Office Staff Changes – We continue to work at the transition of a couple of our DO staff (Julie McKee and Connie Majors) as they will be switching positions officially on December 1st. Julie has worked for nearly ten years as our personnel clerk and will be taking over as our district receptionist. Connie will be moving from the role of receptionist into the position of personnel clerk. Julie was looking for a change and a bit more flexibility in her work schedule in order to be able to do more with her family. Connie joined our team last fall and has done a terrific job for us. She brings to this new role as HR clerk lots of school experience and specific HR training/certification. Even though Connie doesn't have Julie's years of experience, I am confident she will hit the ground running and do very well for us in this new role.

Fiscal Officer Transition – As you know, we will be working with the ESD to transition from their fiscal manager co-operative into hiring our own full-time business manager next year (June/July timeframe). To make this transition, the ESD will be bringing in a person who has a lot of experience in order to assist us in this switchover. Her name is Bernice and she has worked for the ESD for many years. She has also worked side-by-side with Brett for most of that time so she knows him well. As Laurie K. said when we talked about this process, "If anyone can speak 'Brett', Bernice is the person to do it."

What that means is, Bernice can help us move our fiscal records over to a structure that can be in the best position to assist our new in-district fiscal officer we will be hiring by having everything more uniform. Brett did a terrific job for us for more than 15 years by making things work in a much more simple way that required less time. The district's exceptional record of clean audits is a testament to his ability and skill to do his job so well with a very limited time schedule. This limited time (2.5 days per week) is simply not enough time to do this job well as we continue to grow and have increasing demands on the system from state and federal mandates.

That said, new "Bretts" just don't grow on trees so we need to configure the system in such a way and have our district staff trained in the new system so we can find a quality person without having to expect superhuman things from them. Put bluntly, we were very spoiled with Brett and his tremendous service saved the district a lot of money over the years (half time vs. full time). He truly is missed, but moving forward we need to help our new person be positioned in the best way possible to continue our strong record of accountability and stewardship. Bernice is someone who will help us transition from Brett to our new fiscal officer. She will begin in November so you will start to hear her name in our conversations on fiscal matters for the next six to eight months. FYI.

I think that is all for now. Please give me a call if you have any questions. Talk with you later.

Mark