

ON LINE WITH THE BOARD

Quote: "Keep your feet on the ground, but let your heart soar as high as it will. Refuse to be average . . . "

Arthur Helps

The following actions, comments, or discussions took place at the September 12th meeting of the board of education.

1. The following newly hired teachers introduced themselves to the board: Sarah Kamrath, Jenna Salm, Marie Lance, Laura Birchmeier, Alana O'Neal, Brad Baden, Dan Heikka, and Christina Tudor. Christina is a teacher from Romania here with the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program.
2. Elaine Briggs was recognized as the High School Teacher of the Year.
3. Bill Brown gave a presentation on the State Autism Resources and Training program our district is participating in as part of a grant. He also reviewed the Student Assistance Team process being implemented in all of our buildings. Both initiatives follow guidelines from IDEIA and are designed to help provide resources to students who need support and assistance.
4. The following teacher appointments were approved:
Marie Lance, Leah McGrath, Teresa Ocampo (7/8 position), Jenna Salm .
5. The Marine Biology trip to Eleuthera, Bahamas for the summer of 2008 was approved. High School Teacher Wendy Benya will take Phil Zuber's place as the chaperone.
6. Dennis McComb reported on the following:
 - Amy Creten and Gen Rowley will be taking maternity leaves later this fall.
 - Pam Smaby gave birth to a son, Eric, in August.
 - Karen Dickinson became a grandmother. She now has a grandson to spoil.
 - Roberta Myyra wrote and received an \$8,000 grant from the NFL Youth Football Fund. The grant is to be used to help with the football stadium project.
 - Class Sizes are an issue and are being monitored closely. We are purchasing conferences from current teachers at the high school and middle school, and have posted a half-time social studies/English Language Arts position for the middle school. Class sizes at the elementary levels are OK right now. While our student count is higher than our original budget projections our budget is still in the red. Also, in addition to additional staffing costs we have to purchase more textbooks and computers.
 - We are out of computers and we need to purchase some new ones. The plan is to update a lab at the middle school and then use the old computers from the lab in other areas where they are needed. A recommendation will be presented at the September 19th Workshop.
 - We have scheduled assemblies for the Cyber Space Initiative developed by the State Attorney General's Office. This program is to help K-8 students learn how to use the Internet safely.
 - The Board Workshop on May 28, 2008 will be used for the Senior Portfolio night.
 - As required, all of the schools will be doing special activities on September 17th for Constitution Day.
 - MAPS assessment is underway and proceeding smoothly. Teachers will be able to get information on their students immediately which will help their instructional planning.