

Afterwards

A summary
of Wednesday's meeting
of the Board
of Education

April 2, 2008

Superintendent's report

Superintendent Dr. Raymond Bryant reminded the Board about a demonstration of whiteboards at 6:30 p.m. April 7 at the EFA auditorium.

He said he will attend the Hendy PFO meeting at 7 p.m. April 7 to discuss the space issue.

Dr. Bryant thanked district-wide counselor Dr. Kathy Moore and Chris Mecke, director of Pupil Personnel Services, for their hard work in preparation for the April 1 kick-off of the Sisters In Success girls empowerment group.

He told the Board that Broadway Elementary has been invited to present at the International Center for Leadership in Education and that Southside has been invited to present at the National School Development Council – both on professional development. He also discussed the Leadership Summit held at Hilltop Inn March 31. It was an opportunity for school leaders to review their school plans for 2007-08 and make adjustments as needed.

Block schedule update

EFA Principal Scott Williams provided an update on the transition to a block schedule for 2008-09.

Dr. Robert Schmitt attended the March 19 faculty meeting and discussed how to make lessons appropriate for an 80-minute block. Dr. Schmitt will do walkthroughs of classrooms in April, then attend future professional development session to discuss what he saw and offer suggestions.

Faculty will be offered voluntary three-day training sessions with Dr. Schmitt this summer, then two-day sessions for curriculum work.

Staff members will be offered an opportunity to shadow Southside staff sometime in April. Ninety students – 30 each from grades 9-11 – will shadow Southside students for an entire day, then report back to their English classes.

The EFA block will mirror the Southside bell schedule, including an advisement period at the end of the day.

Mr. Williams said almost every student is scheduled for next year and has met with his or her counselor.

Curriculum updates

Deputy Superintendent Joseph Hochreiter gave the Board a preliminary look at 2008 ELA and math results for grades 3-8. The data was generated by the Pearson Benchmark online software program.

The percentage of students at or above proficiency increased at every grade and in each subject, except for grades 4 and 5 ELA.

Bob Bailey, principal on assignment, ran through how an administrator or teacher would access the data for their school or class using the Pearson product.

Ms. Mattison said the Pearson program provides immediate data that is meaningful and allows teachers to address problems right away with the students who need help.

Visitors to the Board

Ted Lax discussed the transition to a block schedule at EFA.

Capital construction

Keystone Architects

The environmental engineer for the Southside project is pulling together information to answer questions from the DEC regarding soil.

Keystone is waiting for SED approval before advertising bids for windows at Diven.

Welliver-McGuire

There are very few items remaining to complete in the \$88 million project. Russ Robinson recommends that the \$100,000 variance be used to fix the back parking lot at Riverside.

New business

Resignation for Don Keddell

The Board accepted the resignation of Don Keddell, who had worked as a consultant on early childhood issues. Mr. Keddell is seeking a seat on the GST BOCES Board.

Tax collection

Assistant Superintendent David Gleason told the Board that both Chemung Canal and JP Morgan have expressed interest in taking over tax collection for the school district.

Board President Dan Hurley asked that local banks be offered the chance to bid for this service. Board member Robin Long will review the proposals with Mr. Gleason.

Other items

The Board approved minutes, a contract for non-resident student health services, recommendations from the Committee on Special Education and personnel recommendations.