

Carbondale Attendance Center / Santa Fe Trail Junior High School 104 N. 4th, Carbondale KS 66414

To: Dr. Steve Pegram, Superintendent

From: Mr. Michael Flax, Principal

Date: May 12, 2014

Re: May BOE Report

Graduation – I want to thank those of you who were able to attend the 8th grade recognition ceremony yesterday. The weather cooperated, and everything went as well as could be asked. I had lots of comments on the event, and the crowd was well-behaved. Brad Shaffer did a great job with the photography again this year. The staged photographs of the students receiving their certificates always turn out well for us. Thanks for participating in that activity as well. Fifty-five minutes was not near enough time to share how special this group of students has been while at Carbondale. It will be exciting to watch this group as they move on to the high school.

Activities Update – The track season is drawing to a close with the league meet to be held this Tuesday at Hiawatha. The teams have competed well, and the more than 80 athletes who participated at least part of the season represented Santa Fe Trail very well. With so many students participating we brought an additional coach, Russell Fawl, over to Carbondale to assist. The head coaches are Pat Lira and Steve Pegram, with assistants Tom Fenton, Adrienne Diggins, and Taylor Lenon rounding out the staff. The league meet will be our last event as members of the Big Seven League. Mrs. Lira, Mr. Hug and I were sure to thank the league administrators and athletic directors for their fine treatment of us as members of that league. We will miss participating with those schools. The only other group in the building with activities remaining is the Student Council. Mrs. Tina McIver has been our sponsor for the last few years, and they have been very active in the school. Among the highlights for this year was our raising of money to send to a school in Iowa in the aftermath of a tornado that ravaged their community and damaged the homes of many of the students. A check was sent in the early winter. This week the StuCo will have a morning work session, doing some tasks in classrooms.

Discipline Report – The fourth quarter discipline report will be prepared for the June meeting of the BOE. At this time I have had a total of 20 referrals from the seventh and eighth grade students this quarter. The students have been extremely well-behaved this quarter, with most of the referrals for the elementary students (numbering more than the junior high) relating to refusal to do activities or assignments made by the teachers. I attribute the low number of referrals to a couple of reasons. First, the teachers have done a superb job of planning engaging activities this year, and the students are living up to the expectation of participation in class. Secondly, and probably more importantly, the group of eighth graders has really been positive in character and leadership. They have set the tone for a calmer and more positive environment than we have seen for some time. Overall, this is a terrific group of young people.

OSCARS – This year the Student Council offered an OSCAR program for our students and staff. OSCAR stands for Outstanding Shows of Character and Respect. Staff was able to nominate students for an OSCAR in three categories: Best Actor, Best Model, and Best Character. Students could recognize staff by nominating them for Best Director. During morning assembly any student or staff nominated was called down to the floor, and the nomination letter was read. Pictures were taken, and the pictures and nomination forms were displayed in the hallway. At the end of each quarter StuCo hosted a Red Carpet Walk, with everyone who had been nominated during that quarter being recognized again with a walk across the gym. Then one person was selected from each category as that quarter's winner, and a small prize was given. This was tied in to the word of the month that I addressed each morning during the assembly. This was a great program for our students and staff, and one we will continue in future years.

Fifth Grade Parent Meeting – On April 21 I invited the parents of the current fifth grade students in to visit about the changes we are making with sixth grade next year. A total of 26 parents and approximately 25 students attended the meeting. Several parents sent emails with regrets, asking for the information notes to be sent to them via email or phone. I will be glad to explain to you all at the BOE meeting the planning and organization effort for this group as they enter the junior high hallway next fall. I believe we have created a schedule that minimizes change for the students and more fully utilizes staff.

Staff Changes – With the budget concerns we have made some staff changes that you are already aware of. However, since the last meeting Mr. Taylor Lenon has resigned his position as eighth grade math teacher. Mr. Aaron McDaniel is also leaving us as a fifth grade teacher, and Mrs. Jewelie Ullery as a sixth grade teacher. I am sad to see all three of these teachers leaving the district. As relatively new teachers, they have shown marked growth as professional educators over the course of their time here. Mrs. Kaci Shively will be replacing Mr. McDaniel, making the move from sixth grade to fifth grade. Other junior high teachers are working this semester and this summer to prepare for their new teaching assignments as well, as most of them will now be working with more than one grade level. That is a big change for them. I am excited about the formatting of sixth grade to the junior high wing of the building.

Submitted by Michael Flax