

Carbondale Attendance Center / Santa Fe Trail Junior High

TO: Dr. Steve Pegram
FROM: Mr. Michael Flax
Date: 8 October 2015
RE: October BOE Report

The following is a summary of building activities and reports for the month of September and October.

Aspire Testing – We are ready to begin the now annual Aspire Tests for the seventh and eighth grade students. The students will all be tested in math, reading, writing, science, and language. We have scheduled testing to take place beginning Tuesday, October 13 and finishing by Thursday, October 22. Only five days will be used for testing, and students will test in their regular classes, so as not to disrupt the normal daily schedules. We determined that it was an unnecessary use of resources to test students in grades five and six, as we did not use that data to make any kind of determination about student enrollment in classes or content being taught.

Fundraiser Report – We just completed the Red Wheel fundraiser for the fall semester. I manage this fundraiser each year to raise money for student activities and trips in the spring semester. A special thanks to teachers Tom Fenton and Joshua Cauthon and student Jaimie Busby for helping me with the distribution to parents after school on Wednesday. We sold 742 products for gross sales amounting to \$10,981. Our profit was \$4502.21. The intent of the fundraiser is not to stockpile money, but to use it on students during the second semester. Last year we sold just over 1000 products, so this is quite a bit lower. However, fewer students participated in the activity this year, with only 14 eighth graders participating.

Activities Update – We are winding down the fall sports seasons next week. Volleyball finished last Saturday with the Pioneer League Tournament at Osawatomie. The seventh grade girls completed the season as league champions and won the tournament as well. The eighth grade girls ended in a three-way tie for second on the season. At the league tournament they finished in fourth place. The football regular season is finished. The eighth grade boys won one game this year, and will be playing in the 5th place bowl game next Thursday at Anderson County. The seventh grade boys finished in third place, and will play in the 3rd place bowl game next Tuesday at Prairie View. The cross country team will finish the season next Thursday at Iola. At every meet this season at least two of our athletes have medaled. We are looking forward to the league meet. The coaches of all sports have worked hard with the athletes. We begin our girls' basketball practices this Friday. Wrestling will begin practicing on Monday, October 19.

Wellness Program – We are in month two of the district wellness program. Last month 29 staff members successfully completed the September Nutrition Challenge. For the month of October we have added a fitness component, with staff being encouraged to exercise for 150 minutes per week. All district staff are provided with a calendar to chart their progress in nutrition and fitness

this month. Those who submit their calendars having met the requirements of the challenge will have their names in a drawing for gift certificates. The two winners from September were Melissa Jeanneret and Marci Alstatt. They received gift cards to Dillon's and to Hy-Vee. The wellness committee will meet monthly to set goals and challenges for each month. We will also have additional opportunities to earn the district wellness t-shirt. Staff must successfully complete four of the wellness challenges to receive the shirt, designed by Doreen Seely-Francis. I appreciate that Dr. Pegram is willing to support and fund this initiative.

Staff Development Day – Our plan for next Monday, October 12 is being developed now. We will be spending some time collaborating on student issues, looking at reading and math data, as well as the content area courses. Updating BYOC and continuing to work on the documents is in the plan as well. Fifth grade teachers and two of the junior high staff will be participating at SAC with the Everyday Math program and with Lexia and Reading Plus. We are hoping to be able to generate reports on student progress and need from these meetings. Near the end of the day will also be time for the district BYOC leadership group to meet. They review and recommend changes to the proposed courses that teachers submit. It is good to have staff development days throughout the school calendar.

Homecoming and Spirit Week – This may come off as defensive, but that is not my intent, nor do I really feel defensive about it. I just believe you should have the explanation when you are approached about this. I continue to answer the criticism that I am a dream crusher and joy killer regarding the high school spirit week and Homecoming celebrations. I am sure you are all aware of my refusal to both acknowledge those activities and allow CAC to do dress up week. The staff here has met about this over the years, and we do not believe that we should do both the high school spirit week and our own during Red Ribbon Week. We make a big deal about our spirit week, and students are encouraged to participate as fully as they wish. (For the record, the children of several of the folks who have complained about this via social media do not dress up during our spirit week.) We acknowledge the meaning of Red Ribbon Week, and offer incentives to those who participate. Students and staff are applauded for their creativity and originality in each of the days the StuCo plans. The entire student body and staff attended the high school parade and pep rally, and we had a great time. I appreciate that we do this activity, as the students really get pleasure out of it.

Submitted by Michael Flax