

TO: Dr. Steve Pegram  
FROM: Mr. Michael Flax  
Date: 6 November 2015  
RE: November BOE Report

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

Aspire Testing – We have completed our Fall Aspire testing and have closed our test session. With that done, the ACT company can begin the reporting facet on their end. I am hopeful we will have results this year in mid-December, so we can begin our preparations for student-parent-teacher conferences in late winter. We tested seventh and eighth grade students in reading, math, science, writing, language. It will be interesting to compare student growth, as this is now our third year with this test.

Activities Update – We are in the middle of the girls' basketball season. 19 eighth graders and 16 seventh graders plus four managers are participating this year. We did request an additional coach for practice sessions only. Lance Quilling agreed to become a practice coach, along with Nicole Prochaska and Lizzie Olorunfemi. The eighth grade girls have a record of 3-1, and the seventh grade record is 1-3. Their next competition will be next Tuesday vs. Prairie View to be played at Carbondale. Next weekend they will participate in a girls' basketball classic that we have been a part of for several years. The eighth graders will be at Rossville, and the seventh graders will play at Washburn Rural Middle School. Each team will play two games that Saturday, with the first games beginning at 9:00. The wrestlers have begun competition, with a match this past Tuesday at Central Heights. There are 28 students participating in the wrestling program, 27 boys and 1 girl. We host(ed) the Pioneer League Wrestling Tournament at the high school on Saturday, November 7. The team's next competition will be next Thursday, also at home, and then Saturday at Silver Lake. Coaches Patrick Graham and Josh Cauthon lead the team again this year.

Red Ribbon Week – Our Red Ribbon Week celebration went very well this past week. Students participated in four days of dress-up and activities. Prizes were awarded by grade level and staff for each day. The most popular day for students and staff was Wacky Wednesday. There were many combinations of clothing and accessories, and all four grade levels were in heavy participation. The Student Council planned the activities, which included readings at morning assembly. Mrs. Maggie Mead is the StuCo sponsor this year. The previous week, the StuCo sold Boo Bags of treats before school. These were then delivered during spirit week as well.

Music Programs – Due to the potential for a reschedule of the musical at Santa Fe Trail High School, our 7<sup>th</sup> grade band and choir concert needed to be moved as well. Additionally, there is a calendar conflict with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade band and choir concert having been scheduled on the same

evening as a home junior high wrestling meet. Therefore, we have combined those two events, and rescheduled them for Tuesday, November 24 in the auditorium at Santa Fe Trail High School. That program will begin at 7:00, and the order of performance is 7Choir, 8Choir, 7Band, and then 8Band. Thanks to Mr. Quilling and Mrs. Jarrett for their flexibility with this change. We are looking forward to the opportunity to try out the new venue.

Eighth Grade Trip – The eighth grade students will once again have the opportunity to visit the Jewish Community Center in Overland Park for a program sponsored by the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education. Next Tuesday, November 10, I will travel with the eighth grade students and sponsors to hear the Second Generation Speakers Bureau Panel. This is a panel made up of the children of Holocaust survivors, and their discussion will include their individual stories and reflections. This is the second year we have taken the eighth graders to Overland Park as a collaborative activity between the language arts department and social studies. Mrs. Allison Folger has been the organizer for this activity. I am looking forward to being present for this panel discussion.

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Celebrations – Each grade level has now held their first quarter celebration. The fifth grade students did a combination celebration/Halloween activity as they participated in a scavenger hunt in the city of Carbondale and movies and treats for the day. All students in fifth grade are allowed to participate in the first celebration of the year, so they will know what kinds of rewards they are getting for meeting their quarterly goals. The sixth grade students spent an afternoon playing Minute-to-Win-It activities. The gym was the setting for the celebration, with 56 members of the class qualifying for the quarter. The seventh and eighth grade students spent a day at the Burlington Recreation Center as their first celebration activity. While there students had all kinds of sports and recreation opportunities available to them. Students swam, played racquetball, volleyball, basketball, pool, air hockey, and other activities. It was a great day for all involved. We are glad to offer these quarterly incentives for our students, and I believe students do work hard towards their goals so they can participate.

Driveway – The work on the north entrance to the east parking lot driveway is completed. The workers put up wooden barriers to hold the gravel in and reduce run-off ruts in the lot. Also, they poured a cement driveway that should also serve to improve the parking lot. I appreciate the work Jim Harris put in to get this arranged and completed.

Submitted by Michael Flax