

TO: Dr. Steve Pegram
FROM: Mr. Michael Flax
Date: 6 January 2016
RE: January BOE Report

The following is a summary of building activities and reports for the months of December and January.

Activities Update – The boys' basketball team is kicking off their season on January 7 here at CAC. They are hosting Central Heights beginning at 4:15. There are 15 eighth grade and 23 seventh grade boys participating. The coaches and athletic director will be meeting with me this week to determine if we are going to use an alternate site for practices. The coaches are Jim Duncan, Lance Quilling and Joshua Lamb. The quiz bowl teams will begin their practices next week. Pat Lira and Gretta Hug will be coaching the two teams. Our quiz bowl has won a league championship four of the last five years. We are confident that this year will give us another opportunity to hang a banner in the gym. I'd like to invite the members of the BOE to join us for either a basketball game or a quiz bowl meet this season. Maybe even both!

Discipline Report – During the second quarter I had 43 office referrals for behavior. Four of those were bus referrals, which leaves 39 referrals over the course of the school day. By class, the breakdown is as follows:

- 5th Grade – 15 referrals – 8 students
- 6th Grade – 10 referrals – 7 students
- 7th Grade – 7 referrals – 6 students
- 8th Grade – 11 referrals – 10 students

That is a pretty fair balance spread among the four grade levels. Of note, two students accounted for nine of the total fifth grade referrals. For the most part, students are held accountable for their behavior, and they comply with most of the rules most of the time.

December Rewards/Programming – We had some great activities to close out the first semester and to celebrate the holiday season. The Christmas Sing! was a great success. Students and staff all enjoyed the music, the performances, the skits, and the contests. The door decorating contest results were rigged; meaning once again the judges were incompetent, and I did not win. And my door even had a note claiming that my boss was a genius. Apparently that didn't fit the Christmas spirit they were looking for. We also had a great concert with our sixth grade students the week before break. It was held at the auditorium and was well attended. All four grades had some sort of Christmas party/activity planned as well. The junior high enjoyed a dance and game afternoon. Having school on the Monday and Tuesday before Christmas did allow us to use the previous full week for academic activities.

Music Planning – As mentioned before, the concerts have been well-attended. We appreciate the auditorium and the more formal concert venue. However, we will not be able to have concerts there that are of multi-grade level. During the junior high concert in December there was not enough room for all the guests to sit. We brought in chairs to line the back of the auditorium, but there were still folks who had to stand for the concert. With one grade level there proved to be enough space. We will schedule concerts for next year (and the remainder of this year) either at CAC or the auditorium, depending on which venue will accommodate the anticipated audience.

Data – I will be meeting with each classroom teacher over the month of January. The intent is to discuss data collection and how we are using that data to drive instruction. Our last faculty meeting agenda included this notice to teachers. It does us no good to collect data if we are not going to look at it critically. And what we gather from that data does us no good if we do not either adapt what we are doing as teachers or what we are expecting as far as student achievement. Teachers have been directed to reflect on their practice and make changes to their approach of the data shows that learning is not taking place at an acceptable (mastery) level.

Wellness Program – We are five months in with the district wellness program. Each month participants are asked to meet goals of nutrition, hydration, physical activity, and a bonus component. Each month two names are drawn for prizes if staff earned the required number of points. The most recent bonus contest was the No-Fat New Year. Staff who participated weighed in with the building nursing staff the day before they left for Thanksgiving break. They all weighed in again upon returning to school this week after the holiday break. Any staff who did not gain any weight over the Thanksgiving thru New Year's holidays will have their names in a drawing for dinner for two. I have heard that several have qualified. The drawing will take place at the end of this week.

Staff Changes – We were sad to see Nurse Carey Lantis leave us after just a semester in the building. We are glad to welcome Mrs. Trisha Graham for the remainder of the year. We have come back with the need to replace four special education paraprofessionals. Ashley Sitz has left us to become the director of the KRR grant. Thereasa Duncan is leaving her full-time position, and will continue to sub for us and ride the special transportation bus. Del Downs has accepted a teaching position at Heritage Christian Schools in Topeka. We are also looking for a replacement for Jessica Hays, who will not be with us anymore. Interviews will take place early next week.

Submitted by Michael Flax