

TO: Dr. Steve Pegram
FROM: Mr. Michael Flax
Date: 4 February 2016
RE: February BOE Report

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

Activities Update – The boys' basketball teams are about to wrap up their season in the next two weeks. There have been some very competitive games. The seventh grade A-team has lost only one time. The eighth grade A-team boys have not won yet. This evening the teams play at Wellsville. Wellsville is the team that beat the seventh graders and trailed our eighth graders until the fourth quarter. Over the past eight days we have had six away games. Gladly we end the season with three out of last four games in our gym. Quiz bowl teams have begun practicing as well. At this time Mrs. Hug and Mrs. Lira are rotating days of practice. Students take their lunches to the conference room and practice every other day. We kick off the quiz bowl meet season in the middle of February.

Ski Trip – The second semester celebration for the junior high students is this next Wednesday. They are heading for the annual ski trip to Westin, Missouri for the day. At last count, 110 seventh and eighth graders qualified for the trip by meeting the requirements for participation. Mr. Lance Quilling and Ms. Lari Jarrett are planning the trip. Students will leave soon after the tardy bell rings and return by about 5:30 p.m. PTO has, in the past, assisted with the transportation costs of this trip. They will not be doing so this year. The building activities budget will make up the difference.

Data – I have met with almost every teacher in my building regarding the data they use in their classes. I did not ask teachers to bring numbers to me, nor data in other forms. My interest in these discussions is that I know what each teacher is doing with information they discover about students in their academic course work. I trust that my teachers are doing what is asked, and each of them so far has been able to articulate to me how they collect data on students and what they do with that data. I have made suggestions to some on strategies and interventions they might use to address individual student needs based on their data collection.

Staff Changes – We have had four special education paraprofessionals leave us this semester, with one more submitting a resignation at the end of February. At this time we have secured three replacements, and are hoping to have the other positions filled as soon as possible. In the meantime we are using substitutes daily to fill the need. New to our building are Katherine Reinsch, Makenzie Heberling, and Carmen Wilford. Those leaving us were Thereasa Duncan, Jessica Hays, Del Downs, and Ashley Sitz. They were all quality paras, so we are missing them.

Our replacements have done a great job acclimating to the building, and teachers are pleased with their work.

Staff Development Day – On Monday, February 15, we will have a staff development day. The plan at Carbondale is based in part on information we received from a PDC survey earlier in the year. Teachers at CAC reported professional development in the following areas: Classroom Instruction That Works (Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement); Technology Integration Training; Active Engagement/Cooperative Learning Strategies (this is one of the Marzano strategies); and Project-Based Learning. Over the rest of this year and all of next year for staff development, I will be looking to address these needs for the staff. Starting with next Monday we will have training on the strategies for increasing student achievement. This is based on Marzano’s research and work. The previous three years we implemented each of the nine Marzano strategies over time, and teachers have requested a review of this material. That will be the focus of the morning work on the 15th. Hopefully the end of the year staff development day will include some of the technology integration training that teachers requested.

Spelling Bee – Two CAC students participate in the Osage County Spelling Bee at Burlingame two weeks ago. Jared Amborski (8th grader) and Ari Delaney (5th grader) were the representatives from this building. There were twelve spellers in all at the event. In the first round, nine of the competitors were eliminated, including Ari. Jared Amborski continued for several more rounds, eventually being the Osage County Spelling Bee Champion. Our preliminary bees and building final contest were managed by Mrs. Gretta Hug and Mrs. Allison Folger.

Overbrook Rotary Gift – This past Tuesday, February 2, the Overbrook Rotary Club had their monthly meeting here at the CAC. They were here to make a special presentation to our students. A few months ago Gretta Hug and I were approached by the club president, Marion Massoth, about a grant opportunity they had. They wanted to write a grant that would benefit our students. After a few meetings, we agreed on a Career Center to be placed in the library. The Overbrook Rotary presented us with a book cart with materials from several of the colleges and schools in the state. Career and college information appropriate to our students is now on display for our students to check out. In March, the Overbrook Rotary members will also participate in a Career Day event at our building. We are grateful to the organization for their contribution. They also award two eighth grade students with honors at the annual 8th Grade Recognition ceremony at the end of the year.

Submitted by Michael Flax