

TO: Dr. Steve Pegram
FROM: Mr. Michael Flax
Date: 2 March 2016
RE: March BOE Report

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

Activities Update – The quiz bowl season is well underway. We hosted the first competition at Carbondale last Monday, February 22. Thirty-two teams competed in the meet, sixteen at each grade level. Out of pool play all four SFTJH teams had success. One of the eighth grade teams won the championship. This week they have competed at Riverside, where one team took fourth place. The next activity is tomorrow (March 3) at Hiawatha. Next week finds them at Perry and at Central Heights. The students are enjoying the competition, and the coaches (Mrs. Gretta Hug and Mrs. Pat Lira) are pleased with their work at practice and in meets. Approximately 90 students are preparing for the upcoming track season. The coaches met with those interested this week, and they will begin practicing next week. Our first track meet is April 5 at Central Heights. Coaches for the season are Dr. Pegram, Pat Lira, Tom Fenton, and Makenzie Heberling.

Paras – We are having difficulty filling the special education paraprofessional jobs in the building. This semester we have had five resignations. Mrs. Katherine Reinsch accepted a position with us, and shortly after had to tender her resignation due to a health issue. So far we have secured four of those. Yesterday we hired Mrs. Teresa Clary and Mrs. Tasha Cook to fill two spots. In January we hired Mrs. Makenzie Heberling and Mrs. Carmen Wilford. I received word yesterday that one of the district paras will be leaving us after spring break. We may be advertising for that position, but I would like to visit with Dr. Pegram about possibilities before that time. Our student case load and sometimes extreme behavior issues are wearing on the paras at times.

Social Studies Position – Mrs. Hamit has joined me in interviewing several applicants for the seventh grade social studies position. We have held four interviews so far, and all four have been candidates we could give serious consideration to. Two more interviews are scheduled for the end of the week. By the time of the BOE meeting, I am hopeful we will have a recommendation for hire. It has been great to see high quality interviewees, and I believe Mrs. Hamit and I have both learned a thing or two throughout the process.

Conferences – The seventh and eighth grade staff, plus Mrs. Maggie Mead and myself, have been busy scheduling parent-student-teacher conferences for the next few weeks. Each of the teachers will manage a total of six hours of conferences. Eighth grade conferences are scheduled for one hour, and seventh grade conferences are scheduled for thirty minutes. Mrs. Mayes, Mrs. Mead, and I will manage the rest of the students' conferences.

Final Quarter – As we get ready to enter the final quarter of the year there are a multitude of events stacking up. Fifth grade students will be attending Star Base for five school days. An unexpected bonus of Star Base this year is that the location for the program has changed. The fifth graders will be at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard. Former CAC Principal, Dr. Ed Gerhardt is the director at the museum, and he will be directing the tours. He told me this is his favorite activity now that he gets to see school children every day again. Our students will be attending track meets, and third and fourth quarter celebrations, as well as a field trip or two. The last eight weeks of school will be jam-packed.

State Assessments – We have completed the Math Performance Task and the Multi-Disciplinary Performance Tasks for the state assessments. The window for the general state assessments opens on March 16. All CAC students will take four sessions of reading and four sessions of math. Sixth and eighth grade students will take two additional sessions of both social studies and students in grades five and eight will have two sessions of science. By the end of testing, the eighth grade students will have completed sixteen sessions of state assessments. Fifth and sixth graders will have done fourteen sessions, and seventh graders will have done twelve. Don't ask me my opinion about that.

[Submitted by Michael Flax](#)