

TO: Dr. Steve Pegram
FROM: Mr. Michael Flax
Date: 5 April 2016
RE: April BOE Report

The following is a summary of building activities and reports for the months of March and April at the Carbondale Attendance Center / Santa Fe Trail Junior High.

Social Studies Position – After being turned down by our top two choices from the first round of interviews, Mrs. Hamit and I conducted one face-to-face interview, and I did a phone interview with an additional candidate. I believe you will receive the recommendation at this meeting to hire Mr. Thatcher Decker for the social studies position. I made him an offer of contract pending your approval. Mr. Decker comes to us from Marais de Cygne Valley, where he is currently employed. He lives in Wellsville.

Conferences – We are currently in the middle of parent-teacher conferences this week for the fifth and sixth grade students. We have made an effort over the past two years to see a parent of every student in our building during the spring semester. We have missed very few; and have tried multiple times to make those contacts. The seventh and eighth grade conferences are almost all completed. It has been interesting to share the Aspire results with the growth comparison from last year. Next year our eighth graders will have a three-year comparison. I believe that parents are receiving the conferences fairly positively, and the staff is glad for the personal contact with parents.

Has anyone mentioned how many days are left in the school year? Just checking if you are reading this, Mr. Boudeman. ☺

State Assessments – We have been doing our best to get the state assessments completed. Today was the first day that we were able to test the grade level (fifth) with zero interruptions from the KITE system. Our plan was to finish them on Thursday, April 7. Due to problems with the testing system we will have two additional days when we return from the three-day weekend. I intended to write a letter to KSDE and CETE, but determined it was better to just let it alone after my last communication with them.

Carbondale Police Chief – Mr. Gordon Smith, the new police chief at Carbondale, met with me briefly this morning before school. He would like his staff to be visible with our students and to our parents. He asked me to include a message in my next parent newsletter about the drop-off and pick-up areas for students before and after school hours. It is their plan to be monitoring the traffic, as I have expressed many times to parents and law enforcement that our intent is to keep students safe when arriving and leaving school. We still have folks stopping in the street and blocking traffic at these times. At times in our parking lot, people are not able to park their cars

before school or leave their parking spaces from a range of about 45 minutes at the end of the day due to traffic blocking. Students are then crossing the parking lot or the street under less than safe circumstances. I am grateful for their assistance.

End of Year Activities – I have created an event/activity list for the teachers to cover the last twenty-two days of school. At this time we have on our calendar 42 of these that affect the staff and students of this building. Almost each day has multiple events going on, which include testing, trips, activities, meetings, etc. It is standard for this time of year, but it makes for some pressure to complete curriculum requirements with all the disruptions to the schedule. It would be helpful if we did not have to plan state assessments around the rest, or vice versa.

Just Worth Mentioning

Drug Testing – We will do our last drug testing the week of April 18.

The Wellness Program will wind up with the final weigh-in on May 6 for the Biggest Loser challenge.

Submitted by Michael Flax