

## May 2010 Superintendent's Report

### **Donations**

The Board of Education is being asked to approve two sizeable donations this month; I thought it might be interesting to see the variety of donations our schools receive over the course of a year. At our meeting with the FFA Alumni, they indicated that future donations are likely soon. They hope to fund technology that will encourage more of our students to develop the skills and interests they need to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Agri-science draws on all of these fields. The anonymous donation money for a Computer Numerical Controlled miller/router will benefit many of our students who take courses in our Career and Technical Education department.

This list is by no means exhaustive and does not include the many donated items that people no longer had a use for or the hours of time from our many volunteers. In these tight budget times, donations really make a difference in providing quality opportunities for our students. Anyone interested in making direct donations to the District should contact the business manager, building principal or district administrator. A thank you letter that can be used for tax purposes is sent as a follow-up to acknowledge the gift.

### **Bullying and Harassment**

Included in the board packet is a summary of the prevention, intervention and staff training activities conducted by our schools to deal with bullying and harassment. In light of recent developments, the administrative team has looked over our policies and reporting forms. We are recommending an additional policy related to bullying for the Board to review at their next meeting. The first drafts are included in the packet. The Harassment policy, which includes bullying, was initially developed to deal with incidents that rose to the legal threshold of harassment particularly as it deals with groups protected under civil rights laws. Bullying does not always rise to that level, but can be very hurtful to students and have a significantly negative impact on a student's ability to feel safe at school, attend and learn. Bullies can be very subtle. They know their behavior is wrong in most cases and can be very adept at hiding their mistreatment from supervising adults. Victims can be very reluctant to stand up to the bullying which factors into who is most likely to be a target. We recognize that increased staff training is important to help us intervene more effectively especially as it relates to "cyber bullying."

### **Budget Process**

I want to thank the Board for their diligent work this week on the final prioritization of our likely budget cuts. The newly elected members attended most of the meetings leading up to their first finance meeting as "real" board members. They were able to hit the ground running. Although it is likely that everything on the list will need to be implemented at least to some degree, the Board carefully considered the impact on students and tried to protect student learning to the best degree possible under the circumstances. They listened carefully to administrators who helped them understand how key the individuals are to student success that are on the list. We don't want to cut or reduce any of the services and opportunities to our students. We have had to make cuts every year for the last few years. Fortunately, we have been able to protect our lower class sizes thanks to the hard work and cooperation of everyone from the building based committees, the administrative team, our citizen participants and finally, the Board.

**Evansville Energy Fair:** This year's energy fair was another outstanding success. This event is an amazing collaboration between the school, businesses, non-profit organizations and entertainers. Leaders from other communities and organizations attended our fair this year to see if a similar event would work in their communities. We have a reputation as a leader in alternative energy. I want to thank Butch Beedle, Joanie Dobbs, Nancy Kress, Mandi Firgens, Mayor Decker, the City of Evansville, Jim Brooks of ECP and all the other staff and community members who work throughout the year to plan and make this

event such a success. Every year the events change a bit and people keep coming back. People from miles away find us and remark on the unique nature of the event.

Evansville High School Student Report  
Rebecca Mills

The Evansville High School Student Council had the blood drive on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The O Ambassadors had a bake sale for Haiti

The NHS Participated in Youth Service Day.

*Levi Leonard Elementary School*  
**School Board Report**  
**May 10, 2009**

**BOARD THEME/CURRICULUM TOPIC: REACH**

Our REACH goal: If we increase staff collaboration time and staff development around the Response to Intervention (RtI) process, then the number of students who meet their target growth goal as measured by the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) administered in April/May 2010 will increase by 5% over last year.

*I have indicated in italics the status of each step of our action plan. Both our mentor last year and this year told us this was an ambitious plan. While we did not complete the entire plan, we have made great progress in implementing the Response to Intervention (RtI) model that we created last year.*

In order to reach this goal, we developed the following action plan steps:

1. Inform staff of the REACH goal at first staff meeting of the year. Inform school board and administrative team at August Board meeting. *This was done.*
2. Inform families of goal as well as RtI information. *This was done through articles in the Review, the school newsletter and a front hallway bulletin board.*
3. Goal-setting conferences with parents – parents have input on student goals for the year. *This was done in fall and the goals reviewed at spring conferences. The goals were set based on benchmarks which were shared with parents at the beginning of the year at the open house.*
  - Share assessments
  - Benchmarks
  - Report card forms
4. At staff meetings address: *These were discussed at staff meetings in first semester.*
  - Mock BIT – go through process
  - How to look at data
  - Collaborative teams
  - Progress monitoring
5. Half day release time: *We did not do these steps. Due to the focus on math, several half days were spent on math curriculum. We will address this next school year.*
  - Review benchmarks with cross grade level teams
  - Learn curriculum-based measurements or “Probes”

- Learn to do progress monitoring
6. Schedule collaborative team time within the school day. *We had a half day per month for collaborative teams. Three substitutes covered each grade level for an hour to provide this time for teachers. A survey will be done this month to gauge the effectiveness of the meetings.*
  7. Ensure MAP data is accurate: *This has been done.*
    - Review scores and compare with other assessment data
    - Monitor those students in Fall and reassess those students in Spring whose scores are extremely discrepant
    - Assess in small groups with support those students who are not likely to score well on MAP based on 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers' recommendations.
  8. Schedule Math and Reading Family Nights *This was not addressed – time constraints were such that we were not able to address this. It will be considered for next school year.*
    - Parents learn expectations of programs
    - Parents receive information, games packet, home activities

### **STAFF DEVELOPMENT:**

April 12 and 13, groups of teachers traveled to Green Bay to attend either beginning or advanced sessions on the Daily 5 and Café methods. The first grade team arranged a study team on this topic last summer, and have been implementing these language arts management strategies in their classes this school year.

### **CELEBRATE!**

Thanks to the PTO for their donation of a Wii Fit and higher quality walkie-talkies to our school. The first will help us with students with sensory issues; the second will assist us with supervision in and around school.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS: May**

- 10 School Board Meeting
- 11 CCC
- 12 K-12 meetings
- 13 REACh/RtI Leadership Team meet
- 17 Collaboration meetings in the PM  
Bjugstad Ross Family Night  
PTO Meeting 6:30
- 19 Last staff meeting of the year – goal-setting
- 20 G/T Advisory Team meet  
First Grade Presentation “Hoos Woods” 9:30 a.m.
- 22 PTO Garage Sale in the Fieldhouse
- 26 Share Fair
- 27 First Grade Field Trip to the Madison Zoo

*Please join us for any of the above events or drop in to visit and talk with students and staff. You are always welcome!*

Respectfully submitted;  
Lou Havlik,  
Principal

*Vicki Lecy-Luebke, Principal  
May 10, 2010*

## **REACH**

Responsive Education for All Children is an initiative designed to promote effective system change in schools. Funding for this initiative is through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) awarded to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Schools which receive this grant are required to set goals to improve student achievement. The REACH goal set at the intermediate school is: "At least 70% of students will meet or exceed the math benchmarks by May 2010, as measured by teacher developed posttests.

In order to reach that goal, staff identified actions that would support that goal. First, teachers within each grade level listed a number of mathematical concepts and operations (benchmarks) that students should be able to accomplish before they leave their particular grade. Then teachers created common assessments to test whether or not those benchmarks were achieved. The next step involved setting up a system of interventions to work with those students who still needed additional instruction to meet the required benchmarks. We are currently at that step and all teachers are working with students in their classrooms who need additional teaching of the math concepts and operations.

## **Celebration**

Our 5/6 grade math meet team took first place at the regional in Mt. Horeb! They will travel to the UW-Madison campus on May 20 to compete in the mega math meet. Team members include Geoff Yoerger, Andy Forster, Emmeline Roth, Ansel Chesney, and alternate Brynna Wisser. Thanks to coach Kim Wollinger for her efforts!

During National Library Week a contest was held to guess how many books are in our LMC. Got a guess? ☺ 12,284! Caitlin Knudson, fourth grader, guessed 12,283 and won the contest!!

## **Announcements**

Theodore Robinson Singers and Drumming and Xylophone group will be performing May 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the intermediate school band room.

**JCMC  
School Board Report  
Bob Flaherty  
May 1, 2010**

## **REACH**

REACH is a grant program that promotes school improvement efforts. When a school obtains a REACH grant and shows progress towards their goal, the money is continued for another two years. We are currently completing our data analysis for this year, but the preliminary results continue to be promising. Our reading specialist, Leslie Ferrell, tested students who were two years behind their peers according to standardized test data. If her individualized test confirmed the data from standardized tests, qualifying students received individual help from Leslie and other staff members over an extended period of time. We have students who have made two years of gains on the recent Measure of Academic Progress test under our REACH program.

In addition, the REACH process identified other areas for improvement and we have looked at alternative methods of delivering curriculum to students who are finding success difficult in traditional classrooms.

The Reach/Site Council visited several schools in March to see how they educated students. One of the schools they visited was in Beloit that emphasized project based learning.

### Professional Development

Teachers continued to work on improving student vocabulary. We also gave the results of the Department of Public Instruction survey that our students took regarding their feelings about education at J.C. McKenna Middle School. The results were positive and I was particularly pleased to see that students gave a positive response to a question that asked them if they felt “safe” at school. It was also nice to see that students responded overwhelmingly positive to a question asking them about the support they received from home regarding their own education. It verifies that our parents are communicating clearly to their children that education is extremely important.

### Celebration

Once again the Energy Fair was an outstanding success. A number of community members commented that they thought this was the best Energy Fair ever. I appreciate the efforts of all the members of our school community who made the day successful.

I was particularly pleased by the community response to our efforts to bag free meals for the people of Haiti. I talked to a minister this week who received packages like the ones we produced and he said they were absolutely saving lives in Haiti. Unfortunately he also reported an upswing in violence and disorder that is hampering his efforts to help people.

Photos are available on-line of the Energy Fair. The link is:

<http://gallery.me.com/raflaherty#100635>

Type in under username: energy

Password: butch

J.C. McKenna Middle School  
Robert Flaherty, Principal  
School Board Report  
May 2011

## **( RREACH) Respect, Responsibility, Empathy, Attitude, Cooperation, Honesty**

### Attendance Rates

- 95.33 % (2009 = 95.03%)
- 38 Unexcused Absent (2009 = 20)
- 8 Habitual Truant Referral (2008 = 8)(2009 = 3)
- Total Habitual Truant Referrals (2008 = 8)(2009 = 3)

### Discipline Summary

- 344 Discipline Referrals ( 2008 = 189)(2009 = 292)
- 27.5 (2008 = 30) Students Out-of-School Suspension (2009=23)
- 15.5 (2008 = 8)(2009=12) Student In-School Suspension

- 1 (2008=0)(2009 = 3) Student received a truancy citation referral

**Evansville High School Board Report:  
REACH  
May, 2009-2010 School Year**

**Celebrations, Donations, etc:**

Our school counselor, Marissa Hansen, gave birth to a baby girl, Maren June Hansen, last Thursday, April 29. All accounts indicate both mom and baby are doing well!

**Professional Development:**

Two of our science teachers, Abby Houfe and Rick Cole, attended a Blackhawk Technical College Science Workshop with other area HS science teachers (and BHT is reimbursing the district for the costs of the substitute teachers, even!). We recently had a team of teachers preview a sample of

**HS update – REACH:**

Our REACH committee created two primary initiatives this school year:

1. Create a HS Literacy Course for implementation during the 2010-2011 school year with Board approval.
2. Create a peer-to-peer literacy intervention program for identified 9<sup>th</sup> graders who are struggling readers.

Our REACH committee believes both initiatives were successful. Our literacy course is still a work in progress as there needs to be additional summer curriculum time invested before we are ready to take off next September 1. We believe we have a great start and pending Board approval on May 10, we further believe that this class will be the start of a powerful selected/targeted intervention for our students for years to come.

Our second initiative was also successful. We identified about 12 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who are not grade-level proficient readers, and we paired them with a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student with strategically selected, high interest books. Our data is indicative that this intervention has made a difference for some of our students.

Lastly, we are hoping to use REACH funds to fuel a couple summer curriculum projects related to our REACH goals and literacy.

We are hopeful to receive REACH funding again next year at the HS in what looks to be the last year DPI will offer this grant.

**Evansville Community School District  
Student Services Board Report  
May 10, 2010**

*Theresa G. Daane, Director of Student Services*

## **Topic Focus: Responsive Education for All Children, REACh**

Responsive Education for All Children, or REACh, is a statewide school improvement initiative funded through a U.S. Department of Education Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant. The Evansville Community School District is completing the second year of work on this initiative. All schools within the district have worked to implement interventions for students at-risk of academic failure.

The goals of REACh are:

- Increased capacity of all educators to address the needs of all students, especially those at risk for failure
- Improved referral to Special Education placement rates
- Improved student achievement and reduced achievement gaps
- Reduced behavior concerns/disciplinary actions
- Increased local capacity to address issues of disproportionality (minority overrepresentation in special education)
- Increased graduation rates of students with disabilities
- Increased number of families participating in a meaningful way to problem solve with educators in addressing the needs of students at risk for failure

Each school has established goals, objectives and activities to address one of the three key targeted components of the REACh initiative. They include reading, mathematics and behavioral programming and interventions that increase student achievement. Each building has a REACh Leadership Team, with a District Leadership Team led jointly by the Director of Instruction, Paula Landers and myself, the Director of Student Services.

The steps taken by each building are as unique as the staff that makes up each team. Regardless of the goals established by building leadership teams, increasing student outcomes and closing the achievement gap between student groups are the outcomes that are monitored. Each building can take pride in the growth students have made. Each has grown as a professional learning community and had a positive impact on student achievement.

The District will apply for a third and final year of REACh funding. Though the funding for next school year is anticipated to be less than previous years, it is important to recognize that the REACh initiative is connected to other district, state and federal initiatives. Response to Intervention, RtI, is one that is closely connected to REACh.

Response to Intervention or RtI is a new component in identification of students with learning disabilities in the public schools. The state of Wisconsin is currently holding public hearings on the state's implementation of this new legislation. Once this legislation is passed, there will be five years left for districts to implement a high quality Response to Intervention model. While Response to Intervention may be viewed as another new initiative, it relates to all initiatives that use data and systematic interventions to monitor and increase student achievement. All of this has been part of our district's Building Intervention Team model for many years. With the REACh funding we have received and the work done at each building, we are already ahead of many other school districts not only in this state, but also across the country. We can be proud of the work done in our school district.

## **Professional Development and Upcoming meetings:**

May 10th – ATODA Coordinators Meeting at CESA 2

May 12<sup>th</sup> – Occupational and Physical Therapy Team meeting at 11:15 a.m. in the OT/PT room at TRIS

May 13<sup>th</sup> – Speech Pathologist meeting at 11:30 at TRIS

May 17<sup>th</sup> – Building Intervention Team Coordinators meeting 3:15 p.m. at the district office

May 21<sup>st</sup> – Evansville ATODA Coalition Meeting 9:30a.m. at the Evansville Police Department

May 26<sup>th</sup> - Special Education Self-Audit Training at CESA 2

### School Board Report

May 10, 2010

### Curriculum Topic: Responsive Education for All Children (REACH) – Funding and Future Directions

Evansville Community School District

Office of Curriculum and Instruction

*Paula J. I. Landers, Director of Instruction*

Responsive Education for **All Children** (REACH) is a federally funded initiative supporting increased student achievement and school system improvement. Federal funds are disbursed through the state agencies via the competitive grant process. In 2007-2008, the Evansville Community School District completed a REACH grant application and was awarded \$28,000 to direct toward school improvement efforts. The District reapplied for 2009-2010 and was funded at the same level for a second year.

This year, as national and local funding initiatives have shifted, the REACH resources have been diverted to support the Wisconsin RtI Center, which is currently under development at the Department of Public Instruction. (<http://dpi.wi.gov/rti/pdf/rti-faq.pdf>) School districts that would be in their third year of the REACH Grant during the 2010-2011 school year are eligible to re-apply for a third and final year of support, but for a maximum request of \$6,000 per school. Evansville will again apply for this grant. After 2010-2011, no additional funding will be offered through this initiative to any district in the state. The Wisconsin RtI Center pick up where REACH left off and provide direction across the state.

Though REACH supports the educational concept of RtI – Response to Intervention – it makes more sense to think of this initiative as “response to instruction.” Are students learning what we want them to and performing at a level commensurate with state and national expectations (e.g. the standards)? Our REACH grant has supported teacher work to develop effective instructional practices that scaffold student learning. When students are not keeping up with the grade level expectations, the work funded by our REACH grant, provides teachers with time to develop local the assessments and instructional materials to help any and all students get up to speed so that they can meet grade level expectations.

Evansville teachers and principals in all buildings have been working throughout the year to develop instructional measures and supports connected to the local curriculum. This work will continue throughout the summer, as the REACH grant supports many summer curriculum projects as well.

### Staff Development

May 3, 2010 – Curriculum Mapping: The K-12 pilot team works with Susan Udelhofen and Paula Landers to update core maps and develop exemplar maps for the 2010-2011 District roll out

May 6-7, 2010 – Wisconsin Mathematics Council Conference: Terrie Schmoltdt, Jenny Runkle, Kim Wollinger, and Chris Schullo will attend in Green Lake, WI.

May 12, 2010 – INTEL Peer Coaching Training for Library Media Specialists (Joan Brooke, Meaghan Farnung, and Kim Stieber-White) to support future technology integration into classroom teaching.

May 13, 2010 – Evansville Initial Educators meet with Marie Benson to learn the Professional Development Plan (PDP) Process required by the State of Wisconsin for teacher licensure.

***Evansville High School***  
***Associate Principal/Athletic Director***  
**School Board Report**  
**May 3, 2010**

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT/PROGRESS ON LEARNING GOALS:**

- April Attendance Rates
  - 94.57 % (**2009 = 93.18**)
  - 94.57 % + Excused Absences = 99.78 % (**2009 = 98.35**)
  - 00.22 % Unexcused Absent (**2009 = 01.65%**)
  - 1 Habitual Truant Referrals (**2009 = 1**)
  - **Total Habitual Truant Referrals 2009-10 school year = 4 (2008-09 = 6)**
  
- April Discipline Summary
  - 72 (**9.2%**) Discipline Referrals (**2009 = 99, 11.1%**)
  - 6 (**2009 = 6**) Students Suspended Out-of-School = 13.25 Days (**2009 = 4.25**)
  - 5 (**2009 = 9**) Students Suspended In-School = 2.50 Days (**2009 = 8.00**)
  - 93 % of students receiving attendance related detentions served their assigned detention(s) in April (27 attendance related detentions/ 2 no shows).
  - 0 (**2009 = 0**) Student received a truancy citation referral in April.
  - **Total of 6 (2009 = 6) students have received a truancy citation referral in the 2009-10 school year.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- EHS will be hosting the Girls WIAA Division 2 Softball Sectional Semi-Final game on Tuesday, June 8, 2010.
- EHS will be hosting the WIAA Division 2 Baseball Sectional on Tuesday, June 8, 2010.
- Evansville Sports Boosters annual golf outing at Evansville Country Club will be held on Saturday, July 10, 2010. If you wish to participate and support the Evansville Sports Boosters contact the Evansville Country Club to reserve a tee time.
- High School Honors and Awards night in the PAC on Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at 7:00 pm.
- High School Scholarship night in the PAC on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 7:00 pm.
- High School Fine Arts Awards night in the PAC on Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at 7:00 pm.

