

January 2010 Superintendent's Report

Virtual Schools - Local Option

Families who are considering Virtual schooling for their middle or high school student should know about the Wisconsin Virtual School (WVS). <http://www.wisconsinvirtualschool.org/> Through the district, rather than Open Enrollment, you can work with us to enroll your child full or part time in a virtual school. This provides maximum flexibility including the ability to still participate in interscholastic sports, co-curriculars or local courses such as Building Trades which are not available in an on-line format. This can be done anytime, not just the February Open enrollment window.

Open Enrollment

Information on open enrollment (February 1-19) is available on our district websites. Families whose children are currently in the district under open enrollment who will be progressing to middle school must reapply. Kelly Mosher has contacted them so they are aware of this need as well as those students currently attending under a tuition waiver who need to apply through open enrollment to continue in our district. When applying for open enrollment in another district, applicants are not guaranteed which school or program they will attend. The district may assign them where space is available.

Kindergarten Enrollment and Registration

Kindergarten will take place much earlier this year in response to community concerns that the option to apply under open enrollment to districts who have half day programs would have passed by the time we have our registration.

The following dates have been set up for kindergarten registration, testing and summer school.

Registration: January 28 at 6 p.m.

Screening: March 10-12

Welcome to Kindergarten: Probably August 2-14 -to be determined.

As part of next year's budget planning, we are looking at eliminating summer school which would include the pre-kindergarten sessions that have been aimed at boosting students who have not had previous pre-school experience. We do still hope to have the two week introductory program.

Half Day/Transition Kindergarten Program

Parents will be offered the choice of half day kindergarten when they register and we will plan from there. Ms. Havlik is currently doing a survey of current transition kindergarten parents to see how they feel the year has gone so far. The results are due by the registration date and should be available for the February board meeting.

Race to the Top

Board President-Michael Pierick, EEA Union President-Bill Hartje and myself have signed the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) indicating the interest of our district in participating in Race to the Top. I called DPI today for clarification on whether or not we are required to do all of the programs listed as part of the state efforts. The answer is we are not required to pursue all of the elements. Large districts will/may be. Smaller districts can apply for discretionary grants for those options that are lower on the priority list for their initial grant. This is of particular interest to us since providing 4 year old kindergarten is one of the items on the list. We will NOT be required to implement 4K as a requirement of accepting Race to the Top funds. Should Wisconsin get their grant, our estimated amount will be \$109,860. If districts decline the funds, those monies will be redistributed to districts that are participating.

Suicide Prevention Workshop

We had an excellent turnout with excellent presenters at our December training. Parents, staff and business leaders attended. Training on QPR (Like CPR) which means Question-Persuade-Refer gave us all the tools to interrupt the progression towards suicide. This simple technique has had a dramatic impact on communities where training has occurred. While phrasing is important- (“You seem distracted. Are you thinking of hurting yourself” NOT “You’re not thinking of hurting yourself are you?”), the important thing is to act and persuade the person to seek help, to work with you on following up with available resources and not make decisions without you. The two presenters both lost young adult sons to suicide. Their stories and courage in sharing them enabled all of us there to believe we could make a difference in our own community.

Evansville High School – School Board Representative Report

I will be unable to attend the January meeting due to the time and finals are that week.

Student Council held the annual talent show contest on the last day of school before winter break. Mrs. Hurda, Ms. Haberl, and Mr. McDonald served as judges. Acts ranged from dancing, singing, playing piano, and playing guitar.

National Honor Society (NHS) had a hat and mitten drive before winter break and it was a success.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Rock County organizes a program called “Lunch Buddies” where high school students become mentors for at-risk or needy kids at the lower schools in the district. National Honor Society students are planning to participate and once a week they would visit with their buddy in the other buildings.

Submitted by:
Rebecca Mills
School Board Representative

Levi Leonard Elementary School School Board Report

BOARD THEME/CURRICULUM TOPIC: Parent Involvement

At Levi Leonard Elementary, there are several ways parents are involved in their children’s education and other ways they are involved with school governance and policy setting.

Parents often volunteer at school to work with learning stations, to listen to students read – we call these “re-reading volunteers” – to work with special projects in class, to present their hobby, interest, trip or career. Parents also help in planning parties, and join us for field trips. Many parents who are not able to come in during the day are very supportive with their students at home. This involves discussions of the school day, listening to their student read and providing a quiet place for homework. Parent enthusiasm for learning definitely encourages student enthusiasm.

We also have parents on our REACH/RtI Leadership Team, our School Improvement Team (SIT), our Elementary Guidance Advisory Team and our Program Based Budget Team. In these teams, the parents offer valuable perspectives on specific issues and needs for our school. They also serve to educate our school staff on how parents and community members feel, and share knowledge of how school governance and budget works with other parents.

Both types of involvement are very helpful in building a positive school community. Parents seem to feel comfortable in contacting teachers or me with any concerns. They request meetings or present concerns and we

discuss them to develop a solution. This happened just recently with a discussion about indoor recesses on very cold days and how these are handled at school. We appreciate these positive relationships and continue to work with families to maintain them.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

Many of our staff members will be involved in math staff development to discuss differentiation within our current math curriculum using the Everyday Math series. Kindergarten will meet with the math representative on January 11, 1st grade in the morning on January 19 and 2nd grade in the afternoon of January 19. resource and special ed teachers will also join these groups.

CELEBRATE!

January 11-15 is “Adult School Crossing Guard recognition Week” in Wisconsin. Please join me in thanking and recognizing Liz Uher, Donna Tofte, and Dulcie Bergsma, our daily crossing guards and Becky Chenowith, our substitute crossing guard.

Thank you to Mrs. Shannon Baumberger who donated \$250 to the elementary music department in memory of her husband Wally. The funds so generously donated will be used for instruments, music and resources for our classroom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

January:

- 18 PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 19 1st and 2nd Math In-service
- 20 Staff Meeting
- 27 PLCs
- 28 Kindergarten Orientation- 6:00 p.m. in Grove Campus Cafeteria

February:

- 3 SIT meeting
- 10 K-12 meetings
- 11 Marilyn and Lou present at Leading Leaders Conference
- 18 REACH/RtI Leadership Team

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

Theodore Robinson Intermediate School

School Board Report

Vicki Lecy-Luebke, Principal

Parent Involvement

There are a number of ways that parents and community members can become involved with students at the intermediate school. Two of our longest term community members, Bill Brunsell and Jim Tway, have volunteered for years. Bill comes in weekly to work with students and Jim comes at the end of the day to help students across our busy driveway. Our PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) does a wonderful job of providing opportunities for kids and community to come together. The Jack o’Lantern Jamboree and the Book Swap are just two of the many activities they plan each year. In classrooms, teachers often invite parents to come in and share information about careers or hobbies. We have a fair number of parents or grandparents who come to eat lunch with their children on occasion. Parents are also invited to help with class projects, such as helping their children build a house to study electricity or building a boat to study the effects of materials on buoyancy, or working on the building of a simple machine with their child. Often parents assist as proctors for our Math 24 tournaments. Parents are invited to attend plays, music

programs, holiday parties, or field trips. Our Talent Show is a big “draw” for parents and community members. We try to make sure parents feel welcome in our school.

Professional Development

Three staff members and I will be attending the Wisconsin Promise Conference the second week in January. Past attendees (Lou Havlik) have spoken very highly of this conference and we are looking forward to it.

Also this month, each teacher of math will be attending a one day inservice to learn about the latest version of our Everyday Mathematics program. We have heard good things about this latest edition. Our Supplemental grant enabled us to purchase these materials and it will support our REACH (Responsive Education for All Children) goals.

Gifts

We received a large donation of furniture from parent Benjamin Schmidt’s business CareFusion. File cabinets, tables, chairs, bookcases, and whiteboards have all been distributed to three of our schools.

A very generous donation was made to our music program in memory of Wally Baumberger, from his wife, Shannon.

Announcements

Our grade 4 concert will be January 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school PAC. All welcome!!

JCMC
School Board Report
Bob Flaherty

Parent Involvement

The middle school has an active PTSO that sponsors student activities ranging from popcorn sales to providing new playground equipment during the past two years. In addition the group has been active in giving advice to the school on how to operate and make changes for the better. Multiple meetings were held with members of PTSO at the end of last year and the start of this year to improve the school.

We have also had a number of parents and community members who have taken an active role in increasing extra curricular activities for students. We now operate a chess club, a robotics league, 4H, as well as having the “Woodchucks” take a role in working with selected students during study hall time. The students are producing woodworking items as well as having the opportunity to have some community members work in a mentorship role with students. The program has received publicity from Channel 3, The Evansville Review, and the Janesville Gazette.

One of the best models of parent involvement in school is the 6th grade “Immigration Day” as well as the Energy Fair. Both of these activities involve parents directly in student learning.

Professional Development

During staff development last month the staff worked on developing the REACH plan for 2010. I appreciate Leslie Ferrell for her efforts as the staff development leader in the school.

Celebration/Thank You

We had a steam leak in Ann Alme's room this weekend. Everything in the room was covered with water and the floor had at least two inches on the floor by Monday morning, January 11, 2010. Thank you to the custodians and staff members who helped move Ann out of her room and salvage what they could. While we can't replace all of the materials she created that were destroyed, it is wonderful to see how her fellow teachers supported her during this difficult time.

J.C. McKenna Middle School
Robert Flaherty, Principal
School Board Report
January 2010

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

Attendance Rates

- 97.68 % (2009 = 95.03%)
- 6 Students with Unexcused Absent (2009 = 20)
- 0 Habitual Truant Referral (2008 = 8)(2009 = 3)
- Total Habitual Truant Referrals (2008 = 8)(2009 = 3)

Discipline Summary

- 148 Discipline Referrals (2008 = 189)(2009 = 292)
- 7 (2008 = 30) Students Out-of-School Suspension (2009=23)
- 6 (2008 = 8)(2009=12) Student In-School Suspension
- 1 (2008=0)(2009 = 3) Student received a truancy citation referral in December

**Evansville High School Board Report:
Parent Involvement**

Celebrations, Donations, etc: N/A

Professional Development: Our building goals and REACH committees continue to make progress on our goals which includes several professional development opportunities intertwined with those goals. Kim Stieber-White will be attending the Wisconsin State Reading Association conference in February. Kim has played an integral role in helping develop a curriculum for a Literacy Course for next school year (pending approval process) that will be a major selected/targeted intervention within the Response to Intervention (RtI) model. Writing this curriculum and creating this course was a goal that surfaced from our REACH team workshop in October.

We will also be sending a couple staff members who are part of our "HS Grading Best Practices" sub-committee (related to our building goal #1) to a two-day professional development workshop led by Rick Wormeli, a guru in the field of differentiated assessment/grading. This workshop will be on March 18-19 – and the principal gets to attend for free!

Parent Involvement: I created a new HS Site Council Committee this year and we have met a couple times with the intent to meet monthly for the remainder of the school year. At our first couple meetings, our committee consisting of four teachers and five parents brainstormed ideas that we believed could potentially be accomplished by this group with the purpose of continual school improvement at the Evansville High School. Ideas we generated are as follows:

- Senior Exit/Graduation Project – We talked about the idea of presenting to the Board a proposal for having graduating seniors (unsure which graduating class to start with) complete a community service-based project of 25 hours or so, at some point between the summer after their junior year and May of their senior year. There would be a formal presentation in May for every senior, possibly judged by volunteer community members, Board members, teachers, etc. Currently, this is the primary idea of which this group is intending to move forward.
- Wall of Fame – We discussed the idea of creating an Evansville High School graduate “Wall of Fame” with plaques commemorating past graduates who have standout success as adults, ranging from high-ranking military officials, successful collegiate/professional athletic careers, CEOs of businesses, etc. We briefly discussed possibilities for application submission, criteria, etc.
- Class vs. Class Community Service idea – We discussed (which relates to one of our building goals) a plan for increasing adult connectivity to students via community service, year-long challenges between classes and/or homerooms. Ideas of clothing collection contests, building-wide “helping hand” positive reinforcement program, and many other volunteer possibilities were generated.
- Scholarship Foundation group – We discussed the possibility of creating a scholarship foundation by having an annual “ball” or party of sorts in the community, inviting participants in for \$40 to \$50 per ticket. The evening could consist of silent and open auctions for donated prizes, 50/50 raffles, and other fun forms of entertainment. All money raised would go toward local scholarships based on criteria that could be set up with the foundation.
- Announcements/closed circuit TV – We discussed another form of school improvement in the form of having announcements via power point on TVs throughout the building, or even having students as part of independent studies or via volunteer project to have televised building announcements.

**Evansville Community School District
Student Services Board Report**

Theresa G. Daane, Director of Student Services

Topic Focus: Parent Involvement

The Parent Education Network Group, PENG, is lead by three, parent liaisons this school year. This group is responsible for planning and implementing social as well as informational meetings for parents of students with disabilities. In past years attendance at the monthly meetings has dropped to a core group of four to six parents. In desire to increase participation and address issues related to teen mental health, the group planned a series of workshops open to all parents in the community.

The following are the workshops planned this year, open to all community members, parents and staff.

Resiliency and Coping in Your Child.

On November 10th we welcomed two Rock County professionals as a panel to discuss resiliency and coping in children. As our community recovers and heals from recent tragedies and losses, we hoped to shed light on proactive approaches to help our kids. Taking a strengths perspective with sensitivity to issues of attachment, protective and risk factors we discussed concrete strategies toward nurturing and emboldening coping skills in youth. Practical resources and suggestions were offered, paving the way toward the next session, which was the Question, Persuade, Refer training. Brad Munger, Rock County

Crisis Intervention Supervisor; and Verlene Orr, Janesville Public Schools YES (Youth Emotional Stability) Coordinator led this discussion.

Question Persuade Refer (QPR)

December 16th, PENG hosted Question, Persuade, Refer training, QPR for parents, community members and staff. This stands for:

Question the person about suicide
Persuade the person to get help
Refer them for help

This training was supported through the dual agencies of Safe Communities and HOPES – Wisconsin. This workshop was gatekeeper training, providing participants with the skills to recognize a suicide crisis and, because of their training, know how and where to find help. The training takes just one evening and the information is given in a clear and concise manner. Participants left this training armed with the following information: warning signs of suicide, methods to encourage a person to get help and a list of resources available in your community. This workshop was very well attended and will have a follow-up session scheduled to discuss developing a list of strategies the community can use to increase knowledge and provide support to youth experiencing mental health issues and suicidal ideation.

Overview of Discipline with Love and Logic

On January 12, Janice Gerlach will present this powerful, yet practical workshop. She will offer simple and effective strategies that will provide parents with skills that are immediately useful. Participants will learn about setting limits with meaningful consequences, while being kind and caring. You will learn to neutralize arguing and teach kids to solve their own problems. The focus will extend to the needs of children with disabilities.

At the end of this training, interest in a series of workshops for interested participants will be determined to see if there is a desire to have the full course offered here in Evansville.

Understanding Individual Differences

On February 9, 2010, Dr. Cathy Van Leuven will use a variety of simulations and activities to help participants understand what life as a person with a disability may experience. Dr. Van Leuven teaches classes at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater to students going into education. This presentation is appropriate for adults and children ages 7 or older to participate in. It is a wonderful opportunity to teacher siblings, care providers or other family members what someone they love may be experiencing on a daily basis.

It is PENG's desire to increase opportunities for parents of children with disabilities as well as providing others in our community with information that may support children with challenges. The last workshop was attended by 27 parents, community and district staff members.

Professional Development and Initiative meetings:

January 4th the crisis response team at Levi Leonard met to review de-escalation and safety strategies.

January 11th, CESA 2 ATODA Coordinator Meeting (Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Abuse)

January 20th Partners in Prevention task force meeting

Associate Principal/Athletic Director
School Board Report

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT/PROGRESS ON LEARNING GOALS:

- December Attendance Rates
 - 94.84 % (**2009 = 94.14**)
 - 94.84 % + Excused Absences = 99.60 % (**2009 = 98.72**)
 - 00.40 % Unexcused Absent (**2009 = 01.28%**)
 - 0 Habitual Truant Referrals (**2009 = 0**)
 - **Total Habitual Truant Referrals 2009-10 school year = 3 (2008-09 = 0)**

- December Discipline Summary
 - 89 (**10.5%**) Discipline Referrals (**2009 = 94, 9.77%**)
 - 4 (**2009 = 5**) Students Suspended Out-of-School = 5.25 Days (**2009 =11.25**)
 - 6 (**2009 = 11**) Students Suspended In-School = 6.50 Days (**2009 = 7.50**)
 - 92 % of students receiving attendance related detentions served their assigned detention(s) in December (25 attendance related detentions/ 2 no shows).
 - 0 (**2009 = 0**) Student received a truancy citation referral in December.
 - **Total of 6 (2009 = 4) students have received a truancy citation referral in the 2009-10 school year.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

- EHS will be hosting a Boys WIAA Division 3 Regional Final game on Saturday, March 6, 2010
- EHS will be hosting the Girls WIAA Division 4 Sectional Semi-Final game on Thursday, March 18, 2010.
- Winter Sports Participants:
 - Middle School Girls Basketball-26 (7th) and 17 (8th)
 - Middle School Wrestling-17 (7th) and 7 (8th)

School Board Report
Curriculum Topic: English as a Second Language (ESL)

Evansville Community School District
Office of Curriculum and Instruction
Paula J. I. Landers, Director of Instruction

The Evansville Community School District provides English as a Second Language (ESL) Programming to fifty four students enrolled in Kindergarten through twelfth grade. The majority of these students are native Spanish speakers, though Chinese, Laotian, and Korean are also represented.

Our English Language Learners (ELLs) come to the District with varying levels of academic and social language proficiency. The DPI categorizes ELL academic language proficiency on a scale of one through seven: a one indicates that the ELL has no English language abilities and a seven represents the proficiency of a native. Of course districts with ELLs provide instruction in academic course work, but by law, districts must also provide instructional programming and services that develop and advance a student's academic language fluency. In terms of accountability, this means that English Language Learners must not only take the WKCE in English, but also have their academic English fluency measured by the ACCESS for ELLs. In December and January we administer the four ACCESS subtests in reading, writing, listening, and speaking to all ELLs K-12 with proficiency levels below a six.

Our current programming is delivered through an ESL Content or Sheltered Instruction model. This means that academic language instruction takes place through the course content delivered in the general education classroom. For students to develop the academic language of science, for example, the ESL teacher would not simply assist the student with the science homework, but would also engage students in additional language-based activities in reading, writing, listening, and speaking to reinforce and develop the academic language of that content area. We currently have a 1.0 FTE serving our ELLs K-8 and a .33 FTE serving ELLs for 90 minutes daily at the high school.

Because our federal allocation of Title III funds supporting ESL is well below the \$10,000 cut off, we must surrender our funding to another administrative entity. We have participated in the CESA#5 ESL Consortium since 2008. Through this consortium, we receive program support, professional development, and our ACCESS data. In 2008-2009, our ACCESS data showed that we failed to meet Annual Measurable Achievement Outcome (AMAO) #1: not enough of our students posted adequate progress in English acquisition. When Ms. Tyson, ESL Teacher grades K-8, and I reviewed the data student by student, we discovered that in the majority of cases, students missed the target by a minimal percentage. We developed an intervention plan that Ms. Tyson is implementing this year, and based upon initial student feedback and responses, we feel that we will see positive growth in our AMAO#1 for next year.

Professional Development:

In December staff members participated in the ISSAC Consortium (professional development in instructional technology), CESA#2 workshops on beginning and advanced SMART Board applications, and curriculum mapping with Susan Udelhofen.

Upcoming Events:

January 11-15, 2010 – K-5 Everyday Math Training with Karyl Zahorik and Mary Freytag

January 19 & 20, 2010 – SMART Board Training at CESA#2

January 26 & 27, 2010 – National Careers Conference, Madison, Wisconsin

January 27, 2010 – ESL Program Review through CESA#5

January 28, 2010 – Curriculum Mapping with Susan Udelhofen