

Superintendents December 2009 Board Report

Safety and Security

Since the November board meeting, the following traffic safety measures have been implemented:

- 1) A crossing guard has been hired after school for 5th and Badger. This will help students cross 5th Street with assistance during the peak high school traffic time. This should have been part of this year's budget.
- 2) Corner of Second Street/Lincoln Street - A new curb cut has been added to the south side of the intersection and the southwest curb cut was expanded to better align with the new curb cut. The city will move the stop sign forward to the appropriate location relative to the new curb cut. New crosswalks cannot be painted until the ground warms up in spring. We will see how these changes work. If another crossing guard is needed, we will need to put that into next year's budget process. Once the stop sign is moved, we will send a note to parents and encourage them to use the new crosswalk as a drop off and make sure they are following traffic rules.

Mr. Joe Francis has an extensive report this month on safety issues. He is our go-to person for safety. Annually Ms. Mosher and Mr. Francis work with staff to update information in our safety manual. We will have a copy at the meeting for you to look at. Mr. Francis receives annual training on what needs to be in the manual. This information is also shared with the police department.

SCTEA Update

We are moving into our second year of the Stateline Career and Technical Education Academy. We have been very successful in getting grants including \$103,000 from WIRED, \$10,000 from Morse and \$61,000 from Alcoa. We are working on developing curriculum that will be standardized across our schools at the introductory level in Automotive, Health Occupations, Engineering, Hospitality-Culinary Arts, Masonry, Construction, Welding and Metal Fabrication. The grant money will help cover these costs and purchase equipment. Meetings will be held in January with principals, guidance counselors and curriculum directors to move this forward. Most WIRED money must be spent by June 1. In particular, we are looking at expanding Project Lead the Way, a pre-engineering curriculum to all of our districts. This would be a great benefit for our students. Our emphasis is on curriculum development and preparing students as much as possible at their home schools rather than transporting them to other districts. A Power Point handout is included in the packet. Steve Huth has assumed the position of director. His salary is being paid out of WIRED funds this year.

Evansville High School – School Board Representative Report December 14, 2009

Submitted by:
Rebecca Mills
School Board Representative

A number of Student Council members were able to work at the Community Blood Drive held on November 16th.

The Hispanic Community Project (HCP) is running El Amigo Secreto to create diversity, which is a secret Santa, for all students in the high school who sign up to participate.

National Honor Society (NHS) is raising money to donate to the Community Care Closet.

SOS Darfur is raising money by selling hot chocolate before school and having a penny war.

On December 8, 2009, 3 student council members went to Parkview High School to participate in the Rock Valley Council (RVC) meeting.

Levi Leonard Elementary School
School Board Report
December 14, 2009

BOARD THEME/CURRICULUM TOPIC: School Safety

When our building was built in the 1970s, then added on to in succeeding years, it was structured to be an open friendly place to the community with large windows and often no doors on classrooms.

Over the years, with many national events that threatened safety in other school districts, we have become more mindful of student safety. We now lock all outside doors between 8:00 and 3:00 daily. We ask parents to sign in and out when they visit school and issue visitor badges for them to wear. We have doors on most classrooms, replaced glass windows with safety or plexi-glass in strategic positions, and use walkie-talkies with all recess supervisors to keep the office informed of any needs.

The building has grown older and some items need to be repaired or addressed in some manner. Joe has talked with me about these items and I know some are in process. This includes the following:

- New mats/carpeting at the front door.
- Keyless entry at the Fair St. entrance
- Need keys to many classroom doors
- Roof leaks – it moves periodically, but there are some perennial spots

It becomes difficult, especially when we do our annual “lock-down” drill to find a place in some classrooms where children cannot be seen from the outside or through the classroom door window. We also do not have keys for all classroom doors and cannot be locked.

Finally, we teach students safe behaviors in terms of their interactions with one another and with adults or other community members. Our True Blue Character Club, the Be Peace project at the first grade level, Life Skills classes and the various classroom efforts to build community all help students develop friendly behaviors. We do not have issues with bullying. If anything begins, staff members are quick to address and deal with situations. Parents too keep us informed of any concerns they have and staff members follow up on those concerns. I have seen a great deal of compassion and concern from our students for others both on the playgrounds and in various school settings.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

On December 15, Jackie Andrew, Sandra McClellan, Jenny Young, Jenny Wiedel, and Michelle Klopp will attend a Love & Logic workshop in Madison. We have used this program school-wide and found it to be successful. We are slowly trying to give all staff the necessary background so they can use the process with confidence thereby gaining positive results with students.

Any time staff members attend a workshop, they always share their new knowledge with the other staff members at a staff meeting, with teams or at our annual Share Fair in May. They also become the local “expert” who helps others interested in implementing this knowledge.

CELEBRATE!

Connie Robers from Head Start recently told us that they received confirmation of the Early Head Start funding on December 3. This would provide funding to serve poverty level pregnant women, infants and toddlers in a weekly home visiting model. They will be working quickly to get the program started in February. They will also be working on a plan for recruiting families. We will keep you posted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

December:

- 16 Staff Meeting**
- 17 “Toys for Evansville” Distribution**
- 18 Collaboration Day-a.m.**
- 21 PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.**
- 22 Winter break begins....**

January:

- 11 Kindergarten Math Inservice**
- 12 Beginning Daily 5 and Café workshop**
- 13 Advanced Daily 5 and Café workshop**
- 14 REACh/RtI Leadership Team meeting**
- 19 Grades 1 and 2 Math Inservice**
- 20 Staff meeting**
- 21 G/T Advisory team meet**

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
December 14, 2009*

Building Security

As parents and community members enter our doors, they are directed to sign in, get a Visitor button, and let the office know the purpose of their visit. (This last step doesn’t always happen and we catch them as we can.) All doors around the building are locked during the day, except for two of the front doors. When students are outside, there are adults there to supervise beginning at 7:45 and during the recess times. Staff are requested to be in the halls whenever their students are. Joe Francis meets with staff each year to go over a lockdown procedure which is then practiced with our students.

Areas of concern have been shared with Joe Francis. A light has been installed on the west end of the building where previous vandalism has occurred. It would be desirable to put a pole light near the playground area. During high school football games and other evenings, that area is a popular hangout. Another area of concern is the accessibility of the building on weeknights and weekends. We have had

several instances of vandalism in our restrooms and it is difficult to determine the perpetrators. Those who sign to use the building should perhaps be given more responsibility for supervision. Finally, one more area that needs to be addressed for safety reasons is the carpeting in the LMC. Those ripples are “gonna” get us one of these days.

Professional Development

Staff members are currently working on ensuring that our math curriculum spirals from the third through fifth grades. They are meeting after school and within the school days to look at state standards in preparation for the district curriculum mapping that will continue to take place this month.

Reading specialists Teresa Doyle and Judy Strieker continue to work with staff to model reading strategies and methods of delivering instruction in classrooms.

Celebration

Our application for the Title I Supplemental grant of \$55,000 was approved. The grant is made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Because our special education students missed adequate yearly progress (AYP) in reading last year on the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE), we were targeted as a school eligible to apply for these funds. They will be used to target reading and math achievement.

Students in Johnson and Wollinger’s fifth grade classrooms sent 325 letters to veterans last month. They received mailing lists from the VFW and the American Legion. Ojeda and Forster/Smith’s fifth grade students sent letters to veterans at the Medical Center in Tomah. Students have been receiving many letters and phone calls expressing gratitude.

JCMC
School Board Report
Bob Flaherty
December 4, 2009

Building Security

The two-year-old office move is paying off in terms of security. All parents who enter the building must enter via the office. I feel that it not only improves security, but visitors do not get lost trying to find the office as they did in the past and there are fewer people wandering the building.

This year we removed many of the exterior bathroom doors in the building on the advice of a harassment consultant that addressed teachers and administrators at the start of the year. Adults are far more likely to hear if there are problems in the restrooms with the doors removed.

The number one concern remains the lack of video cameras in areas of the building that are isolated or offer opportunities for bullying or vandalism.

Professional Development

During staff development last month the staff worked on developing the REACH plan for 2010 and took a building climate survey.

Celebration

We successfully completed WKCE testing and avoided having a major outbreak of H1N1 so far. Good news!

Personal Note and Thank You

I appreciate all of the kind words and support we have received from the board, the administration, teachers, support staff, and students of the Evansville School District. Two months ago I felt I could not miss a day at school and rarely did so. However, the staff, students, and parents have pulled together and the school is doing well. It has been said that crisis does not build character it reveals character. The learning community at JC McKenna has character and resiliency.

My wife Mary continues to make progress. When she was first injured she was diagnosed with a C4 injury, which means she would not have use of her hands wrists and very limited functioning in her arms. Today she can raise her arms and can lift 13 ounces with her wrists. She is now showing signs of having C6 functionality. While she is still paralyzed from the chest down, her wheel chair has given her a sense of independence and hope. She is scheduled to come home on December 17, 2009, but she may have her stay extended if she continues to make progress and the insurance company agrees with the plan. I am very hopeful that she will be home before the start of 2010.

J.C. McKenna Middle School
Robert Flaherty, Principal
School Board Report
December 2009

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

September Attendance Rates

- 98.9 % (2009 = 95.03%)
- 7.5 Unexcused Absent (2009 = 20)
- 0 Habitual Truant Referral (2008 = 8)(2009 = 3)
- Total Habitual Truant Referrals (2008 = 8)(2009 = 3)

October Discipline Summary

- 114 Discipline Referrals (2008 = 189)(2009 = 292)
- 6 (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
December 14, 2009

Professional/Staff Development

We have a number of staff development initiatives going on concurrently at the high school this past month, most related to our building goals:

- We have a subcommittee investigating best practices in grading at the high school level. This group has been meeting once a month after faculty meetings. Each group member has grasped a

piece of literature related to grading and is consuming it with the intention to disseminate the information to other group members in January. Our hope is to propose a timeline of grading changes by the end of the school year.

- We have a committee investigating options for alternative education possibilities for next school year. Members of this committee have participated in a software demonstration of an online curriculum that could potentially be utilized to help meet these needs, pending approval. Another presentation from a different company is set to take place on Thursday, December 10.
- Several teachers have attended CESA2 SMART Board training recently.

Building Safety/Security

Our staff recently participated in a “lockdown drill” inservice/training as part of the November 18 faculty meeting in preparation for the actual drill which took place the morning of Tuesday, November 24. The lockdown was nearly flawless, with the single exception of our Physical Education teachers not having heard the announcement; additionally, the text message system we have set up as a backup to our PE teachers was not operational at the time. This issue has been fixed.

Throughout the average school day all exterior doors remain locked after the start of school with the exception of the main entrance office doors. Brian and Scott do periodic checks to ensure the outside doors remain locked and are not being propped open by students using pebbles, pencils, etc.

Please refer to Joe Francis’ report for additional building safety/security issues.

Student Services Board Report

December 14, 2009

Theresa G. Daane, Director of Student Services

Topic Focus: Safety

The Evansville Community School District has a significant number of students with limited mobility. With just our current student population, there will be between one and four students enrolled in any one of our schools for years to come. As a school district, we must comply with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act in providing access to our schools. We meet all these requirements

Overall, we have limited challenges with accessibility. There is, however, a safety concern present at JC McKenna Middle School. As required, we have a designated evacuation location for students or staff with mobility issues from the upper floors at the High School and JC McKenna. There are designated locations for fire and rescue personnel to evacuate disabled persons when the elevators are not accessible. At the middle school, this location is located outside the library. For those familiar with this building, you may quickly realize that the only way to access this evacuation area is by using stairs. In the event that the elevator is not able to be used, we have no way, other than to physically carry the person to this location up and down stairs, to reach this area. While on the surface, this may not appear to be a great challenge, we need to consider all the other factors.

Our students with limited mobility often have other challenges. These may include having frail bones or joint issues that would make this an unsafe option. This is in addition to a number of other concerns that may impact on their physical health. In the event that the student is large, there could be risk of injury to staff evacuating the student along with the risk of falling while moving the student.

As part of the most recent administrative team meeting, we discussed options. The solution to this safety issue is to consider purchasing a device that could safely move a student up or down steps. This device is often referred to as a stair chair. In talking to our local fire department, they do have such a device and

would use it to evacuate those with mobility issues from the evacuation location. This will work well at the high school, having only one floor to remove students from. At our middle school the only option is to purchase such a piece of equipment to have in our building.

Joe Francis has begun to investigate the purchase of such a piece of equipment. The cost is approximately \$2,800 per unit. Ideally the district would purchase up to five of these to evacuate students from levels of the building that require stairs to be navigated to the evacuation location or from the building. The other option would be to purchase one to two such devices and strategically place them in the building, where they would most likely be needed.

During the November school board meeting questions arose regarding safe accessibility for students entering or leaving school grounds. In assessing this concern, it has been determined that parents are able to pick up and drop off students at locations that do not require crossing a street. In the event of any parent concerns that come up in the future, Joe Francis and I will work together to determine needs and provide a solution in a fiscally responsible manner.

Professional Development:

Early childhood teaching staff has visited numerous school districts to investigate community based programming options as part of their Professional Learning Community.

Events /Announcements/Upcoming:

On December 16 at 6:30 p.m., The Parent Education Network Group will host Question, Persuade, Refer Training, a gate keeper training, to assist those interested in learning how to respond to a person that is experiencing suicidal thoughts. This training will be held at the TRIS Library and is open to any concerned community member in addition to staff.

Evansville High School
Associate Principal/Athletic Director
School Board Report
December 4, 2009

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT/PROGRESS ON LEARNING GOALS:

- November Attendance Rates
 - 93.79 % **(2008 = 93.91)**
 - 93.79 % + Excused Absences = 99.77 % **(2008 = 98.97)**
 - 00.23 % Unexcused Absent **(2008 = 01.03%)**
 - 0 Habitual Truant Referrals **(2008 = 0)**
 - **Total Habitual Truant Referrals 2009-10 school year = 3 (2008-09 = 0)**

- November Discipline Summary
 - 78 **(8.9%)** Discipline Referrals **(2008 = 148, 14.1%)**
 - 7 **(2008 = 8)** Students Suspended Out-of-School = 11.50 Days **(2008=9.50)**
 - 8 **(2008 = 14)** Students Suspended In-School = 9.25 Days **(2008 = 13.25)**
 - 95 % of students receiving attendance related detentions served their assigned detention(s) in November (20 attendance related detentions/ 1 no shows).
 - 1 **(2008 = 0)** Student received a truancy citation referral in November.
 - **Total of 6 (2008 = 4) students have received a truancy citation referral in the 2009-10 school year.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

Congratulations to all of the following athletes receiving all-conference recognition:

Boys Soccer: Senior Josh Shearrer 1st team
Senior Will Mauch 2nd team
Senior Enrique Lema
Sophomore Jake Olson honorable mention

Girls Cross-Country: Junior Lauren Janes 1st team
Junior Mary Andrew honorable mention

Boys Cross-Country: Senior Evan Arnold 2nd team

Girls Volleyball: Senior Anne George honorable mention
Junior Samantha Alisankus honorable mention

Football: Senior Jeremy Weaver 1st team defense
Junior Konnor Johnson 2nd team defense
Senior Cody Kruiuzenga-Weckesser 2nd team defense
Senior James May 2nd team defense
Senior James May 1st team offense
Senior Cody Kruiuzenga-Weckesser 1st team offense
Senior Grant Parker 2nd team offense
Junior Lucas Hurltley 2nd team offense
Junior Casey Moseley honorable mention
Junior Dylan Erickson honorable mention
Junior Tommy Bjugstad honorable mention

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Winter Sports Participants:
 - Girls Basketball-41 (**2008 = 34**)
 - Boys Basketball-43 (**2008 = 37**)
 - Wrestling-25 (**2008 = 28**)
 - Pom-Pons-15 (**2008 = 15**) (varsity) and 15 (**2008 = 17**) (junior varsity)
 - Cheerleading-6 (**2008 = 0**)
 - Middle School Boys Basketball-26 (**2008 = 22**) (7th) and 20 (**2008 = 25**) (8th)