

District Administrator Report June, 2010

Year in Review:

July-August

- Summer was a busy hiring season including the hiring of a new high school principal.
- The two sudden student deaths occurred in August created a somber tone to the beginning of the school year. Our district staff did a marvelous job of supporting families, students and each other. Changes were made to the crisis plan and will be reviewed by the Board at their June 28 meeting. A workshop for the community on preventing suicide had an excellent turnout.
- The school year started with intensive staff development and our buildings clean, ready and waiting for 1,831 students.

September

- Staff hit the ground running especially at the Intermediate School where significant support was needed for special education students in reading to overcome the designation as a school in need of improvement. Results indicate this goal was met and since the work continued throughout the year beyond the fall testing date, we hope to see similar progress when we get the 2010 fall results.
- The high school embraced the new principal. There were some minor grumblings about stricter guidelines in the dress code for staff and students, but all got through it with a sense of humor. Students in grades 2-8 completed their Measures of Academic Progress testing.
- Our first transition kindergarten class was underway.

October

- H1N1 hysteria hit the state. We geared up with Pandemic Plans, attendance monitoring, germicides and some parents keeping students home out of fear. It all amounted to very little and by winter break we had stopped tracking attendance.

November

- The annual WKCE, first quarter conferences and Thanksgiving break made quick work of November.

December

- Our school forest plan was presented for board approval. This plan will serve as a model for other districts according to the state organization.
- ARRA funds were used to order a van to improve transportation for our wheelchair bound students to community and job experiences.

January

- Transition kindergartners returned from winter break as full time students.
- The Board set open enrollment limits to only admit students in grades 6-12.
- The high school decision to enforce guidelines on Pom uniforms was discussed.
- The Memorandum supporting the state's application for Race to the Top was signed by the teacher's union president, the Board president and the district administrator.
- Two midyear resignations in the high school Spanish department left us scrambling for replacements in a difficult to fill field. We were fortunate to find two excellent replacements.

February

- The football practice field was named after long time coach and staff member, John O'Connell.
- Pat Kelley, Gail Guenther and Rich Langer submitted their intent to retire at the end of the school year.
- Kindergarten registration only yielded four families interested in half day or transition kindergarten.

March

- Kathy Comeau reported on the results of our Youth Behavior Survey. Concerns related to alcohol and other drug availability and use by our students continues to be a matter of grave concern. A community based committee and approach is underway.
- Open enrollment limits were approved as well as the retirement of Jean Loesch.

April

- The first lay-off in many years was approved by the Board.
- The Energy Fair was taped by Discover Wisconsin and had another wonderful turn-out.
- Week of the Young Child Fair was also very well attended and supported by local businesses.

May

- A new high school literacy class was approved for selected students.
- Program Based Budget rankings were approved to direct budget decisions for the 2010-11 school year.
- Many students were recognized at the various award nights and ceremonies across the District.
- The Board had its first experience with a second board meeting of the month to replace the previous committee meeting structure.

June

- The school year seemed to end much too soon. The end of the year was quiet.
- Our high school graduates put their own stamp on their graduation ceremony as they left the building for the last time as students of EHS.
- We hosted a variety of baseball and softball contests which helped our athletic department and sports boosters revenue for the District.

Many Thanks

This was an eventful year with many unique challenges. The administrative team and the Board worked together to learn from them and lead the District forward. We supported each other through the loss of two students, the debilitating accident of Bob Flaherty's wife, and active community involvement in a variety of issues. Humor and respect got us through the toughest times and foreshadow our ability to handle what lies ahead.

Levi Leonard Elementary School
School Board Report
June 14, 2010

BOARD THEME/CURRICULUM TOPIC: *Highlights of 2009-10*

Meeting our Goal: One of our goals this year was: at the 2nd grade level, 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. We met this goal by increasing 12-18%.

Daily 5 and Café Methods: One of our 1st grade teachers introduced us to the work of “The Sisters” and this set of strategies and management tools. The system teaches children to enjoy reading, to challenge themselves and to look at both fiction and non-fiction from various perspectives. The first grade team made this the topic of their PLC this year. Several kindergarten and 2nd grade teachers have also explored this system and implemented several components. We have seen an increase in student achievement in reading at the first grade level and hope to continue this improvement over the next years.

Math Inservice: Mary Frietag spent a half day with the first and second grade teachers to explain the various features of the newer Every Day Math publication we are using. Her tips and ideas have helped all teachers to improve math instruction. Karyl Zahorik worked with the kindergarten teachers in a similar manner. The teachers involved would love to have more of this type of professional development.

Collaboration Meetings: Through the REACh grant funds we were able to arrange for substitutes one half day per month who floated from one grade level to the next so that teachers could meet to discuss data, individual students and various interventions and strategies that could be useful with students. The end of year survey filled out by 21 of our 45 teachers indicated that these meetings were very helpful to them in meeting student needs.

REACh Grant Support: This grant has enabled us to set up a workable Response to Intervention (RtI) system in our school. The first year we created the handbook and process. This year we implemented the process and formed collaborative teams. The third and final year, we will teach staff how to use the interventions and probes and to do the progress monitoring. This type of support is necessary to create a comprehensive and cohesive process to make sure we meet the needs of all our students.

Respectfully submitted;
Lou Havlik,
Principal

**Theodore Robinson Intermediate School
School Board Report**

Vicki Lecy-Luebke, Principal

June 14, 2010

Highlights This Year

- Our school successfully met requirements to be taken off the list for “not meeting AYP” (Adequate Yearly Progress). A cheer went up from the “ranks” when this was announced!
- Special education students made outstanding gains on the MAP (Measures of Academic Performance) assessments in spring. Monthly meetings of the five special education teachers and our two reading specialists contributed to that success.
- Teams met to set math benchmarks and create assessments at each grade level. Results were analyzed and students needing additional instruction were programmed.
- “Wacky Olympics” was the culmination of our Character Education program. Fifth graders listed that as their favorite memory of the year.
- Our student Talent Show at the end of the year keeps getting better. Many students played instruments, sang, danced, or did stand-up comedy. One of the highlights was a performance of *Thriller* by a group of teachers.
- NBC 15 filmed our school doing a “Shout Out” and they were very complimentary about our students.
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters Lunch Buddies program began second semester. Students from the high school were paired with intermediate students; it was a great success! Deb Arnold worked with Scott Everson to make this happen!!
- We said goodbye to four wonderful staff members: Rich Langer, Gail Guenther, Becky Ludeman, and Pat Kelley.
- The kids—they always make this a great job to come to everyday!

Professional Development

Professional Learning Communities shared their work at the end of May. Topics included: strategies for creative thinking in the classroom, guided reading procedures, science curriculum investigations, common assessments, curriculum spiraling in phy ed, application of book study to pupil services, and alignment of K-12 skills in music. This type of professional development can be invaluable if stakeholders have clear objectives, action plans, and means of assessment in place.

Gifts/Donations

Benjamin Schmidt, parent and production manager of CareFusion in Middleton, donated and delivered 35 file cabinets, 3 desks, and 2 tables to the intermediate school for distribution to any of our four schools. Thanks to Dennis and Roseanne Hatfield and their sons for helping unload all of this furniture!

Celebration

Fourth grader Brian Bartlett and fifth grader Geoffrey Yoerger were among the top scorers in Wisconsin in the 2009-2010 Midwest Academic Talent Search, a testing program for gifted students in grades 3-9. Approximately 6,000 Wisconsin students participate each year and these two students were among the top 5% in the state.

**JCMC
School Board Report
Bob Flaherty
June 8, 2010**

JC McKenna Highlights:

I would like to thank the staff and students at J.C. McKenna Middle School for their support and resilience. It was the most difficult year I have faced personally and as a building principal. The staff worked hard to deal with the tragic death of an 8th grade student. In addition, the building principal was gone for significant periods of time during the year to deal with his own family crisis.

Butch Beedle, Bruce Curtis, John Hanson, and Cathy Kruckenberg took over the lion's share of discipline during the year. Leslie Ferrell, Theresa Daane, and Linda Rehfeldt took over many leadership roles in my absence. Staff members took care of business and ran the school. All of these individuals did this without additional pay. Their leadership and selfless dedication says a lot about the school and District.

We started the year on a difficult note with the death of a student. The staff and students pulled together to support each other and the family. Doug and Cindy Zblewski went beyond the call of duty to support the middle school during a time of personal grief.

The middle school continued to build unity between grade levels with our color/home base concept. Students from three different home bases mix together and wear similar colors (see photo sample).



Mrs. Dobbs “Yellow” home base. Larry Dobbs was her long-term sub at the start of the year.

Reach grant provided funding to continue working on reading. We targeted a number of students who were two years behind in reading comprehension. The vast majority of these students made gains of one to two years via the program.

Word Walls were all over the middle school. Every teacher put up at least 100 key vocabulary words that students needed to know in order to be successful in their subject area.

We have raised over \$45,000 dollars for the March of Dimes during the past ten years. Our school is the second largest fund raiser for MOD in Rock County.

Mrs. Kopf was named Student Government advisor of the year for Region Five.

Seventy students volunteered to take a six mile hike on their day off with some of our staff members who worked on a Professional Learning Community to increase student's time outdoors.

The Energy Fair continues to be a core activity in our community. This year was better than ever!

**Evansville High School Board Report:
School Year Highlights
June, 2009-2010 School Year**

Celebrations, Donations, etc:

N/A

Professional Development:

A small team of teachers and Scott attended a Rick Wormeli 'Differentiated Lesson Planning' workshop. This workshop was another series of connected professional development related to our first building goal.

HS update – 2009-2010 School Year – A handful o' highlights

- 122 of our seniors participated in a successful, emotional, and positive graduation ceremony last Sunday!
- Our graduating students received over \$600,000 in scholarships to pursue their post-secondary endeavors.
- We met our primary REACh goal and are ready to implement the inaugural "Literacy Lab" course next school year for students identified with reading needs.
- Our EHS athletics won conference championships in Wrestling and Baseball.
- One of our students, Ann O'Leary, was a Kohl Scholar Award recipient.
- One of our students, Evan Arnold, was a National Merit Scholar recipient.
- Our HS counselors successfully piloted Comprehensive School Counseling Model conferencing with many 11th and 9th grade students and their parents.
- We piloted and then implemented Odyssey software as a means of credit recovery for Summer School, and throughout the upcoming school year.
- Increased co-teaching, inclusive services for students with disabilities.
- We are continuing to progress and move forward with building-wide best practices in grading and assessment.
- Our Site Council group has worked year-long on a Senior Graduation Project proposal.

- Our Advisory setup has continued to play a significant role in providing students a universal time for work and support, and has helped reduce student failures
- A group of our students participated in a new Big Brothers Big Sisters school-based mentoring program with partnered “littles” at Theodore Robinson.
- We created a Veteran’s Day Program that was a large success and hopefully the start of an annual event.

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

June 14, 2010

Theresa G. Daane, Director of Student Services

Topic Focus: Highlights of the 2009-2010 School Year

This past school year has been one of professional growth for many student services staff members. Highlights include professional development on math instructional practices, curriculum mapping, differentiation of instruction and changes in service delivery models.

One of the biggest challenges this past school year has been the movement towards community based programming options for kids receiving early childhood services. This special education program has traditionally been a four day a week program, with a half day in the morning or afternoon. A few children came in just for speech therapy. Parents in our community have referred children they had concerns about, and typically expected they would receive four half-days of programming if qualified. This is no longer the case.

During this past school year early childhood teachers, speech pathologists, occupation and physical therapists met frequently. The start of the next school year districts need to provide 50% of early childhood services in the natural environment their non-disabled peers are in. This has changed how early childhood services will be provided for many students. While many families are happy about this change, others are taking time to adjust. We will work to make this a smooth transition.

Another huge area of growth has been focused on differentiation of instruction and team teaching. Two grade level teams at Theodore Robinson worked with Alice Udvari-Solner, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, to increase knowledge and application of universal design of instruction, integrating active and collaborative learning practices to the greatest extent possible. Units were revised took into consideration the different skills, abilities, and interests of the students. The feedback received speaks volumes for the value of this work. All the teachers involved felt they could better meet the needs of all students. During the summer these teams will continue to meet, receiving 12 additional hours of curriculum planning time and eight hours of time to work with Doctor Udvari-Solner. The teachers are excited to have this time to work.

All staff members teaching mathematics were provided training on using our adopted textbooks. Special education staff has not always had access to these materials. Without this connection to what is being taught in the general education classroom it can be difficult to effectively plan and program for students with disabilities. This training provided the tools necessary to use the building texts and tools, which are clearly essential to instruction and student achievement.

While the year started out on a very sad note with the completed suicides of two students, we did avoid the contagion factor that often happens when you have suicides occur in a community. While we clearly have a number of students that struggle, we have increased our collaboration and screening to identify students at risk in order to connect them with resources. The revised policies, guidelines and procedures that will come before the Board in the next month reflect six months of work by the student services team. This was a very challenging year, but the staff handled these challenges with integrity and respect for all involved.

The last highlight I would like to share is the result of collaboration between the building administration and the guidance department at the high school. Our school counselors have all received the first two levels of training on the comprehensive counseling model. This year the high school began to pilot the four year conferencing that is a critical component of the model. Over 50 students were involved in the pilot at the high school. Next year the expectation is that all juniors will have a conference completed during the first semester. During second semester all freshmen will participate in the conferencing. This will assist students in development of a vision for the high school years.

This is only a sampling of all the highlights from this school year. The biggest highlights that can not be shared are those specific to student growth. Children with disabilities may have many challenges. These challenges make each success even more important. From the child that began to take his/her first supported steps without braces to the child that wins an award for his/her academic achievement; these are monumental accomplishments when you consider how the child began his/her educational career. The challenges faced each day by students with disabilities are often overcome because of our supports and their determination to succeed, even when we may never realize how hard they are working.

School Board Report
June 14, 2010

Topic: 2009-2010 Highlights in Curriculum & Instruction

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

Highlights from 2009-2010 in the area of curriculum and instruction all connect to system change. Leading system change, while it sometimes feels like dodging potholes, is rewarding, invigorating, and for a school system means benefits for all students.

Curriculum Mapping - Mathematics Pilot: A team of advanced mappers consisting of twenty K-12 teachers of mathematics developed core maps based on state and national standards. The advanced mappers presented and discussed the curriculum maps each grade level and across grade levels so that teachers could develop a common understanding of the scope and sequence of the K-12 mathematics curriculum. Through consensus, the core maps were approved and the advanced mappers continued to the next stage of mapping which involved creating individual maps based upon their daily instruction and interaction with students. Throughout this process, participants praised the value of collaboration with colleagues at all grade levels and endorsed the importance of all staff developing an understanding of instructional practices and student achievement in all buildings. More than one participant confirmed that curriculum mapping was "the best professional development I have ever had." Mapping is an activity that requires teachers to engage in professional dialogue about what they teach, how they teach it, and why they teach it. Mapping moves educators from isolation and siloing of information to the collaborative culture of a professional learning community. As we move forward in 2010-2011 and engage all K-4 teachers in the mapping process, this work will further shape our District culture to embrace the value of professional dialogue and collaboration across the system.

ECSD Mentoring Program: As the newest member of Dane County New Teacher Project (DCNTP), our District was afforded the opportunity to access high quality professional development for our initial educators and two teacher mentors, Butch Beedle and Kim Katzenmeyer. Hiring and training Butch and Kim was a major change in the District's mentor program. Our previous model paired an initial educator with a veteran teacher who would act as a social support over the course of the year. The new model asks principals to pair the initial educator with a "building buddy" to provide social support in the building, while the role of the mentor is to act as an instructional coach who observes the new teachers in the classroom, provides constructive feedback, and encourages self-reflection. Butch and Kim completed three courses developed and taught by DCNTP personnel – Instructional Mentoring, Coaching and Observation, and Analyzing Student Work to Guide Instruction. This background has provided them with a foundation to effectively shape the instructional perspective of new teachers, promote retention of new teachers in our District, and begin the professional dialogue about curriculum and instruction. With further support of the DCNTP, Butch and Kim will continue their work with our first and second year initial educators next year. Our focus will be to develop a binder of support materials for first year teachers and a plan to support second year teachers as they develop their goals and seek goal approval in the Professional Development Plan Process.

ECSD Information and Technology Plan: The 2009-2010 school year brought with it the responsibility to develop and submit an updated Information and Technology Plan to the Department of Public Instruction. This document requires school systems to plan strategically and dedicate resources over a three year period to the improvement of the instructional use of technology. The 2010-2013 ECSD Information and Technology Plan was developed collaboratively by a team of school and community representatives. Guiding the development of the stated goals and action plans were a new mission and vision statement, and teacher and student data. The technology budget was constructed to be compatible with the mission and vision, and to support the attainment of the goals in the plan. Throughout the process of developing the plan, a variety of perspectives were considered – this contributed to the strength and cohesion of our current plan. The previous Information and Technology Plan lacked focus and broad system input. The new plan marks a concrete change in direction by offering a systematic, clearly outlined, and resource supported plan for improvement. The Technology Plan Committee spent many hours in professional dialogue and are to be commended for their effort, desire to produce a quality plan, and dedication to improving the District's access to technology for teaching and learning.

In the areas of curriculum and instruction, professional development, teacher induction and mentoring, and instructional use of technology, the District has made positive progress to deepen professional learning and promote professional dialogue among educators. Professional dialogue has energized our staff to engage fully in improving the work we do with our students. The more teachers engage in professional dialogue, the more clear it becomes that the time we spend on professional development must and will directly correlate with visible gains in student achievement.

Professional Development

June 2010 – REACH funded work in all schools to develop interventions and assessments that support Response to Intervention (RtI)

June-August, 2010 – Summer Curriculum work in all schools

July 2010 – Core Map refinement in Mathematics

August 11, 2010 – Exemplar Maps created by the advanced Mapping Team for K-5 mathematics

August 11-12, 2010 – Microsoft Peer Coaching Training for Library Media Specialists through the ISSAC Consortium. (Supported in the Information and Technology Plan.)

Technology Board Report 2009-2010

Submitted by Larry Martin- District Technology Manager June 2010

Manage the District Computer Network

- met bi-weekly with Technology Committee
- started to manage user permissions to make sure that the appropriate users have access to the appropriate files
- restricted local user rights to reduce our risk of viruses and software license infringement

Coordinate Hardware Purchase

- set up a 5-6 year computer rotation cycle
- meet with vendors several times a week to make sure we get what we need for a fair price

Oversee Budget and Equipment Inventory

- inventoried all computers
- started to prioritize district technology needs for the technology budget

Coordinate Day to Day Technology Operation

- Craig S., the Technology Specialist at the High School, is doing an outstanding job at maintaining the website and inventory system
- working with the existing system, I have had to come in on weekends and some nights due to power-outages and network outages

Coordinate Long Range Technology Needs

- switched to Google EDU for student email to reduce cost and improve Web 2.0 usage
- upgraded the bandwidth from 5Mbps to 25Mbps increasing the stability of interactive Web 2.0 resources
- worked with Paula Landers and District Technology Plan Committee to prepare plan as required by DPI for long range professional development, education, and budget needs

Evansville High School
Associate Principal/Athletic Director
School Board Report
June 7, 2010

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT/PROGRESS ON LEARNING GOALS:

- May Attendance Rates
 - 94.33 % (**2009 = 92.59**)
 - 94.33 % + Excused Absences = 99.72 % (**2009 = 97.94**)
 - 00.28 % Unexcused Absent (**2009 = 02.06%**)
 - 0 Habitual Truant Referrals (**2009 = 0**)
 - **Total Habitual Truant Referrals 2009-10 school year = 4 (2008-09 = 6)**

- May Discipline Summary
 - 128 (12.3%) Discipline Referrals (2009 = 134, 12.5%)
 - 13 (2009 = 10) Students Suspended Out-of-School = 45.75 Days (2009 = 10.75)
 - 13 (2009 = 12) Students Suspended In-School = 12.00 Days (2009 = 10.75)
 - 92 % of students receiving attendance related detentions served their assigned detention(s) in May (24 attendance related detentions/ 2 no shows).
 - 0 (2009 = 1) Student received a truancy citation referral in May.
 - **Total of 6 (2009 = 6) students have received a truancy citation referral in the 2009-10 school year.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 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.

CELEBRATE:

- Congratulations to the Boys Baseball team for capturing the 2010 Rock Valley North Conference championship.

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

Girls Soccer: Sophomore Lydia Eager 1st team
 Junior Rachel Carlson 2nd team
 Junior Maddy Blain 2nd team
 Sophomore Sian Cunningham 2nd team
 Sophomore Emily Schlangen honorable mention

Girls Softball: Senior Hannah Gunn honorable mention
 Senior Lauren Meredith honorable mention

Girls Track: Junior Rachael Bromley conference and regional champion triple jump

Golf: Senior Noah Rooney 2nd team

Baseball: Senior Brian Lunde 1st team
 Senior Jeremy Weaver 1st team
 Junior Casey Moseley 2nd team
 Sophomore Ryan Weaver 2nd team
 Senior Grant Parker honorable mention
 Senior Mike Crider honorable mention