



*...from the May 22, 2018 Board of Education Meeting*

## **RECOGNITION**

### **Code Rush National Finalists – Churchville Coderz**

For the second year in a row, the Churchville Coderz team competed in Code Rush, a national coding competition for students in grades 3-8 that is hosted by CodeMonkey and sponsored by DK Books. CodeMonkey nurtures problem-solving skills, logic and creativity in an interactive platform that introduces student teams to coding in a real programming language called Coffeescript (CodeMonkey software) and requires team members to play through a total of 141 challenges, covering programming topics such as objects, functions, simple loops, variables, arrays and for-loops.

Beginning in January of this year, the 17-member Churchville Coderz team began playing through a series of weekly challenges, ending with the team unlocking the last of 40 challenges on March 19, allowing each team member to earn an automatic score between 1 and 3 for each solution, based on the quality of the solution.

The following Churchville sixth through eighth students and were awarded first place by completing all 141 Coffeescript challenges without error: Paul Anwar, Jermyah Bolden, Dmitry Bolsoni, Salma Brobbey, Joseph Byrne, Diego Carrera, Alyssa Caruso, Kalina Ceglinski, Sophia Chan, Teresa Chirayil, Ellen Cockman, Nicholas Dobrowolski, Matthew Huffman, Benjamin Galarza, Jeffry Lu, Mackenzie Petersen and Kayla Tutunji. They were guided by Debra Segiet, who serves as the Churchville Computer Literacy teacher.

### **Illinois Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) Winners**

York High School DECA advisor David Lyons introduced juniors Matt Anderson and Jason Kentra, who competed as a team in the Financial Team Decision Making event, finishing second in the state in March and advancing to the DECA International Career Development Conference held April 21-24 in Atlanta, Georgia.

At the State DECA conference, held in Rosemont earlier this year, over 900 participating students competed in economics exams, career cluster exams and role plays, being ranked against all the other competitors in their event, with the top ten students advancing to state competition.

DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe and provides opportunity for high school students to network and market their skills.

### **Music Educator Innovator Award Winner**

The Give A Note Foundation, in partnership with the Country Music Association, has announced that York Community High School music teacher Chris Gemkow has been awarded one of five Music Education Innovator awards nationally, which includes a \$4,500 grant to create lasting change in the

honoree's school district. This award recognizes school music programs that are led by creative music educators using innovative and sustainable strategies in non-traditional or traditional secondary music courses.

This award recognizes music educators across the United States who have demonstrated a positive impact on their students and the community. Mr. Gemkow was honored in Nashville, TN at the Country Music Awards (CMA) Teachers of Excellence event on May 8, 2018 and will be honored in November 2018 at the National Association for Music Educators (NAFME) National Conference, where he will present his program to other music educators.

## **Retirement Recognition**

Following eight years of service to District 205, Melea Smith, Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations, will be retiring at the end of June. A reception was held in her honor prior to the Board meeting and at the Board table Jim Collins read a list of accomplishments during her tenure, including the creation of Talk205, Board Highlights and the York Distinguished Alumni Program.

## **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

Statement read by Kara Caforio (and included in the May 21 issue of Talk205):

Community engagement around District 205's Master Facility Plan process continues this week. Two Future Focused community meetings remain - one at Bryan Middle School on May 23 and one at Sandburg Middle School on May 30. Both meetings begin at 7 PM, with a school-specific informational meeting scheduled for just prior, beginning at 6:15 PM. There is also a school-specific informational session set for Thursday, May 24, beginning at 8:30 AM at Emerson Elementary. Each large group presentation will be the same in content; please mark your calendar for the date that best suits you and plan to join the conversation. All are welcome! Many thanks to all who have participated by attending a meeting and taking the exit survey!

In order to honor the process, the boundary discussion previously announced as taking place on May 22 has been postponed until after the results of all community engagement meetings have been reported to the Board. The Board would appreciate having the full perspective of all four Future Focused community meetings, prior to holding that discussion.

Once those meetings have been completed and feedback from the accompanying exit surveys compiled, the Board will have a chance to discuss this as part of upcoming Master Facilities conversations in June and beyond.

## **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **Instructional Coaching Report**

Dr. Mary Henderson, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Leadership Development presented an [Instructional Coaching Update](#). "The ultimate goal of instructional coaching is to improve student learning through the support of teachers working to improve their instructional expertise," she said.

Most teachers who have worked with an instructional coach report that it had a positive impact on both their teaching and student learning. Thirty-two percent of teachers met 1:1 with a coach five times or more this year; 18.9% met three or four times; and 21.6 percent met one or two times.

Year two's program outcomes include:

- Increased student performance on state and district measures with an emphasis on closing achievement gaps.
- Evidence of instructional and curricular support to implement math curriculum
- Increased instructional capacity of teachers in meeting the needs of ALL students and the implementation of core (Tier 1) instruction
- Increase in purposeful use of collaborative planning time

Next steps include a shift from teacher-centered coaching to student-centered coaching. Twelve groups of District 205 Instructional Coaches will be presenting at state or national conferences.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA – CONSENT**

With one member missing, the Board voted 6-0 to approve the following items:

- Personnel Reports
- Financial Reports
- Bid #18-09 - Xerographic Paper
- Revised Board of Education Meeting Dates

John McDonough pulled the following two transportation-related items from the agenda to talk about the process of competitive procurement. Policy #460 requires that the District award contracts to the lowest qualified bidder. He wanted to address this as a matter of practice.

- Two Year Extension of Contract for Regular Transportation Services with First Student
- Extension of Special Education Transportation with Cottage Hill

Jim Collins felt it was reasonable to extend the busing contracts and award the 2.5% raise, which represents less than the increase in the cost of fuel over the life of the contract.

The Board made the decision to table these two items until their next meeting, when Assistant Chris Whelton can be present to answer related questions.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S AGENDA – ACTION**

With one member missing, the Board voted 6-0 to approve/adopt the following items one at a time:

- Resolution Approving Surety Bond of Treasurer – District 205 Assistant Director of Financial Affairs Adrian Gaerlan was appointed
- Staff Salaries for 2018-2019 (non-union)
- Resolution Ascertaining Prevailing Wages
- Contract for Website Redesign – awarded to Finalsight
- Donations (Bryan, Jefferson, Sandburg)
- Donation (York)

Based on a recommendation by the Communications and Technology departments, the Board of Education approved the website services contract with Finalsight in an amount of \$34,500 annually, with a one-time set-up cost of \$35,000, pending review of agreement terms by the District's legal counsel. To read the rationale and view supporting documents, please [click here](#).

### **Bryan Middle School**

The Aidan Shea Foundation is a non-profit foundation set up to honor the memory of Aidan Shea, former District 205 student, whose twin brother is currently a 6th grade student at Bryan. The foundation would like to donate \$5,000 to the Bryan Library in his memory. This money would be used toward six mobile bookcases and a wall mounted countertop and brackets for the library. These additions will allow for a more flexible learning environment and help move the school toward being future ready by making the space flexible.

### **Jefferson Elementary**

The Jefferson School PTA has generously offered to donate up to \$18,000 to provide each classroom with a high-interest leveled classroom library. This would allow students to access more engaging text at a variety of levels within their classroom during readers' workshop. In addition, they have offered to donate up to \$9,500 to be used to purchase items that will support an increase in the use of STEM focused activities and improve the school's maker space environment for all students.

### **Sandburg Middle School**

The Sandburg Middle School PTA has generously offered to donate \$3,000 to the library/maker space area to purchase furniture for this specific spot. The furniture would be in place at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year.

### **York Community High School**

In honor of the musical accomplishments of Madeline (Madds) Buckley, a York High School recent graduate, and in recognition of the innovative and outstanding music production programming developed by teacher Chris Gemkow, Mr. and Mrs. John and Anne Buckley have generously committed to a five-year sponsorship of the Fine Arts Week and York Album Project programs in the amount of \$1,000 per year for a total of \$5,000.

Mary Henderson said that Jefferson was behind in book acquisition and this donation will bring them up to par with other elementary schools. We are monitoring where people are getting funding. Some of these are pilot projects.

"Director of STEM Dave Beedy is going to try and sift through the maker space concept next year so that we have a prototype of what that should look like. We are converting former computer labs for this purpose, since we now have a 1:1 environment," said Superintendent Dr. David Moyer.

"The Board has looked at accommodating balance across the schools for a long time. All gifts are subject to Policy #880. We are dedicated to resource equity; that is non-negotiable," said John McDonough.

Karen Stuefen thanked the Aiden Shea Foundation and the Jefferson PTA. John thanked the Sandburg MS PTA for supporting the vision of the District.

Chris Blum thanked the Buckley family for their support of the York Fine Arts Week and York Album Project. "We have a very generous community and we're very thankful for it," he said.

Dr. Henderson stated that she was keeping track of the donations of books for literacy and using her Learning and Teaching budget for schools that do not receive donations. D205's Assistant Superintendent for Innovation and Growth, Dr. Mark Cohen, is keeping track of STEM items so equity among the schools can be tracked. Dr. Moyer noted that maker space donations are newer and

Director of STEM Education Dave Beedy will be keeping track of those.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNICATION**

### **Future Focused Update**

Dr. Moyer called attention to the two remaining Future Focused community meetings – one at Bryan on May 23 and one at Sandburg on May 30. He said there was the start of an FAQ document at each Board member's place. Note: FAQs are now available [here](#) and are linked from the Master Facility Plan page - [www.elmhurst205.com/masterfacilityplan](http://www.elmhurst205.com/masterfacilityplan).

Melea Smith spoke about the ThoughtExchange process. The current contract expires at the end of June, but the company is willing to extend it through November to help gather additional community feedback regarding the proposed facility improvement plan.

### **Freedom of Information Act Requests**

Three Freedom of Information Act requests were received:

- One requesting specific invoices, which was granted.
- One requesting specific employee information, which was granted.
- One requesting a specific bid, which was granted.

### **Recap of Cabinet Retreat**

Nate Levenson from the District Management Group facilitated a Cabinet Retreat on May 15. The day was organized into four big ideas: Where do we want to go? How are we going to get there? What will get in our way? And, what are our individual and team responsibilities in achieving these goals?

Cabinet discussed the current state of the District and future priorities, as well as working through a series of exercises to identify next steps in providing proper support for the schools which are entrusted with implementing the District's vision.

Next steps include a Leadership Team Retreat on May 31 in which the entire team will work together to establish shared ownership over agreed-upon priorities and begin a dialogue about roles, communication and systems to ensure coherence and high performance.

This will be followed up by individual interviews with building principals and a workshop to study the feedback in June. Some of the work related to school improvement will be shared by the Learning and Teaching Department in July as part of its annual presentation on annual instruction focus areas for the upcoming school year.

## **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

**June 6** – Learning and Teaching Committee Meeting - 6:00 PM - District 205 Center

**June 11** - Special Board of Education Meeting - 6:00 PM - District 205 Center

**June 19** - Board of Education Meeting – 7:30 PM – District 205 Center

**June 28** – Special Workshop Meeting of the Board of Education – 7:00 PM – District 205 Center

**NOTE:** Video footage of all Board of Education regular meetings is usually posted on [205TV](#) within 48-72 hours. Audio is posted within 24 hours at [www.elmhurst205.org/Audio](http://www.elmhurst205.org/Audio) (please click on

appropriate meeting date). Past editions of Board Highlights are posted/archived at [www.elmhurst205.org/BOE\\_highlights](http://www.elmhurst205.org/BOE_highlights).