



West Plains Schools Board Notes

February 21st, 2012

Pledge of Allegiance- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the West Plains Elementary Choir and the South Central Career Center Student Ambassadors.

The choir group is composed of 32 auditioned fourth grade students from the elementary lead by Mrs. Kelly. Earlier in the year, they performed at West Vue Health Care Center, Wal-Mart, and the main bank of West Plains and sang several pieces, accompanied by parents and audiences alike. They will perform on March 15 in their final performance.

The SCCC student ambassadors are part of Project Pathways Plan which is aligned with the College Access Challenge Grant. The ambassadors were nominated by their program instructor with specific guidelines. The duties of the student ambassadors are to help fellow students and community members to become aware of the importance of education; completing high school, technical or vocational and college.

Regular Agenda

Board Policy Update –

Last month the board reviewed the employee-student communication policy as recommended by the MSBA. The board adopted the policy.

Distinction in Performance-

For the last 11 years, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has reported on how each school district is performing as measured by the 14 academic performance standards. West Plains Schools is one of only 287 districts out of 524 in the state to receive the Distinction in Performance award for 2010-2011. The award is one of the state's most prestigious honors for school districts. It is based on the district's performance relative to student performance standards that are used to determine state accreditation through the Missouri School Improvement Program.

Boys & Girls Club Facility Use –

The grant for the Before & After School program (B.A.S.E.) is in its final year and at this time it appears it will not be extended for the 2012-2013 school year. The Boys and Girls club is a community program in the development stage. The organization has approached the board for use of the West Plains Elementary for a startup location. The board has approved the request.

Set 2012-2013 Calendar –

The board unanimously voted to approve the 2012-2013 calendar. The first day of school has been set for August 16th, 2012 and the last day of school is set for May 16th, 2013. The district calendar can be found online at www.zizzers.org under Quick Links.

Board Policy JHB 1st Read-

Policy JHB was read and approved by the Board of Education. Policy JHB allows adult students who apply and receive federal financial aid in addition to their tuition the ability to claim economic hardship and receive the excess money during the fall semester.

Resignations – All approved by the board.

Randy Schutjer – SCCC Teacher

Allison Lafevers – Practical Nursing Coordinator/Teacher

Kenny Judd – High School Special Services

Kathy Grigsby- Elementary Art Teacher

Roy Moss – High Special Services

Melinda Vance – Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

Vicki Lawrence – Middle School 8th Grade Teacher

Linda Collins – Family & Consumer Science Teacher

Kathy Long- Middle School Special Services

Pam Hesse – S.O.A.R Instructor

Sharon Waddell- Missouri Option Instructor

Brenda Smith – SCCC Director

Brent Whitwell- High School Math

Joby Steele – Assistant High School Principal

Vickie Hadley – Middle School 6th Grade Teacher

SCCC Director to Retire – Brenda Smith

Mrs. Brenda Smith, 29 year veteran of the West Plains School District (33 years overall), has informed the West Plains School Board of her decision to retire. Mrs. Smith has most recently served as the Director of the South Central Career Center for the past 5 years. Prior to that, Mrs. Smith served as the Assistant Director/Adult Coordinator for 5 years and as a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher for 19 years. Mrs. Smith has been asked to return in a part-time role as the Adult Coordinator for the 2012-13 school year and she has agreed to do so. Mr. Mr. Josh Cotter, the current Adult Coordinator, will be transferring within the district to fill needed administrative vacancies. The school board appreciates Mr. Cotter's willingness to take on new roles in order to fulfill the needs of the district.

Mr. Jim Laughary named as new SCCC Director

Mr. Jim Laughary, current West Plains High School Principal, will be transferring at the end of this school year to fill the vacancy left by Mrs. Brenda Smith. Mr. Laughary has worked closely with the South Central Career Center as a High School Principal in both the West Plains and Bakersfield school districts. His experience in those roles will bring a valuable perspective for leading the SCCC forward. Additionally, Mrs. Brenda Smith will be able to serve as his mentor during this transition since she will be returning in a part time role. The school district is looking forward to an exciting future for the SCCC as Mr. Laughary and Mrs. Smith work together to advance Career & Technical Education for the West Plains Schools, the community, and the surrounding school districts.

Superintendent Report-

- The Carl Ingalsbe auction and chili supper raised over \$60,000 for the family.
- Senior Tyler Eggert has been selected as a National Merit Scholarship Finalist
- The district has teamed up with the district's website host to provide a new online fundraising portal. Visit www.zizzers.org/shopping to purchase from over 1600 stores and 2% to 5% of your purchase goes back to the district.
- The people and businesses of West Plains are showing their support for school athletics by contributing to a fundraising effort for improvements at the Zizzer Stadium. The project would include renovations such as synthetic turf, field house expansion, lighting improvements, and a new scoreboard. The West Plains Zizzer Athletic Booster Club kicked off a campaign this past week to raise the funds needed. The synthetic turf is

expected to be completed by August 2012 and the other improvements will follow shortly after.

Next Regular Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27th at 5:30pm

School board meetings are held monthly on the third Tuesday of each month at the West Plains Schools Administrative Offices, 613 W. First St., unless otherwise posted.