



## West Plains Schools Board Notes

October 16th, 2012

**Pledge of Allegiance-** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the West Plains Elementary preschool class along with the West Plains High School Ridgerunner magazine staff. The 2011-2012 *Ridgerunner* magazine once again received first place with special merit at the American Scholastic Press Association's annual magazine contest. This national contest is held annually to recognize outstanding student publications.

### Regular Agenda

#### **Capital Improvements Update-**

Dr. Mulford gave an update of the capital improvement projects around the district. Projects include –

1. **Roof repair at Admin** – Blackjack Roofing has submitted the necessary items to proceed with the roof replacement at the administration building. Replacement should begin within the next week.
2. **Thornburg Campus Phase 1** – Feller's Construction has completed the roof repairs and from there they will finish the touch up work inside. The SCCC offices have moved to the new facility and they are in the process of settling in.

The district has received positive feedback thus far for the grant that has been submitted to the EDA for funds to help with Phases 2 & 3 of the renovation. The district is optimistic about our chances of receiving additional funding that will allow us to complete both of the remaining phases. Without the grant, the district has the necessary funding to complete Phase 2, but Phase 3 would have to wait until additional funds are accrued or acquired.

3. **Early Childhood Special Education Building** – The district has been told with 95% certainty that the Early Childhood Special Education building grant would be approved. However, final approval cannot be given until the district actually purchases the building.

#### **MSBA Conference Summary –**

The West Plains School Board attended the 2012 Annual Conference sponsored by the Missouri School Boards' Association (MSBA) in cooperation with the Missouri Association of School Administrators (MASA). The event was held September 27<sup>th</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup> at Lake of the Ozarks. The conference featured nationally recognized keynote speakers, numerous workshops and clinics designed to improve the leadership skills of school board members, secretaries and superintendents. It focused on ways they can influence the improvement of student achievement in Missouri's public schools. Dr. Czerwonka gave the board members an opportunity to share what they learned at the MSBA Conference. Several board members commented that while many of the sessions were informative, it was exciting to see that most of the sessions centered around programs and processes already in use by the district.

### **Awarding High School Credit to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students – Algebra I 2<sup>nd</sup> Read & Approval**

Recently, K-8 schools were informed of a new MSIP 5 standard for which they will be held accountable. This standard relates to high school preparedness and End-of-Course (EOC) testing. K-8 school districts will now be required to test 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in an EOC area. As a result, our district has been asked to consider awarding high school credit to any student who scores proficient or above on EOC testing, specifically Algebra I. The policy specifically addresses Algebra I and how students can earn credit for taking this advanced course during their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. The board approved and accepted the amendment.

### **Health Insurance Approval –**

Coventry Health Plans offered the district a renewal for 2013 with no increase to district health insurance rates. Additionally, the benefits and optional plans will remain the same. The board approved the renewal rate proposed by Coventry for January 1, 2013 – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

### **Resignations** – All approved by the board.

Greta Bailey – MS Head Custodian

Kristin Brown – Gainesville AEL

### **Superintendent Report-**

Dr. Czerwonka mentioned that the South Fork Fall Festival was a success. He wishes to thank the community, South Fork families, partners, and local sponsors for such amazing support.

The West Plains Middle School Technology Fair will be held on Thursday, October 25th from 5:30 to 7:30pm. Parents will have the opportunity to find out the role technology plays in education. The middle school is planning a website scavenger hunt and several demonstrations on Study Island, Smart boards, netbooks, Acuity and more. A chili supper will be served and prizes will be given away.

Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> and Friday October 19<sup>th</sup> at the West Plains Elementary, West Plains Middle School, South Fork Elementary and West Plains High School.

### **Next Regular Meeting**

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 20th 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.*