



## West Plains Schools Board Notes

September 17, 2013

**Pledge of Allegiance-** The Pledge of the Allegiance was led by Sydney Sanders, a 2013 West Plains High School Senior. Sydney was unable to attend the 2013 graduation ceremony due to a critical injury she incurred on the day prior to graduation. Sydney was presented her diploma from Board of Education President, Jim Thompson.

### **Regular Agenda**

#### **SCCC Accreditation Update –**

The South central Career Center (SCCC) continues to prepare for the transition to a new accrediting body. At this time, SCCC is awaiting word on the date of the initial accreditation visit. The visit is expected to occur mid to late October. Mr. Jim Laughary and Dr. Josh Cotter will attend a workshop in Columbia next month on “How to Host a Team Visit” and “Self Study Workshop”. Attendance at this workshop will allow SCCC until April of 2015 to host its accreditation visit.

#### **Standards – Based Grade Card- Approval**

In June, Dr. Brad Owings and Dr. Julie Thompson asked the School Board to consider adopting a standards based grade card system for kindergarten through fourth grade. A standards-based report card puts more emphasis on mastering objectives and less on achieving a letter grade. Dr. Thompson noted that the district has worked hard to align its curriculum and instruction to state and federal standards for what children should know and be able to do and that Standards Based Report Cards are a natural progression in this work and will help all of us work more effectively toward sustained academic improvement. A standards based grade card communicates the student’s actual level of understanding on specific learning targets, thus eliminating ambiguity for parents. The board approved this request for both West Plains and South Fork Elementary buildings for the 2013-14 school year.

#### **Mission, Vision, Goals – Final Approval**

During the August board meeting, two faculty representatives from each building were present to provide feedback related to the district mission, vision, and goals that were established by the school board in June. Faculty recommendations were applied to the respective areas and a revised document was presented to the board for final approval. The board approved the mission, vision and goals, which will be posted on the district website this Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Bridges Program Presentation-**

The Bridges program began during the 2012-2013 school year, under the name Food For Thought. During the school year, Food For Thought helped to provide nutritional, hygienic, and other personal needs for West Plains High School students in need. The goal was, and still is, to help students meet their basic needs in order to make education their priority.

Over the course of last year, the vision to expand the program to serve more students within the community blossomed. Organizers of the program believe, that with the community's help, Bridges will be able to help students throughout the entire West Plains School District, as well as the surrounding rural schools.

Bridges actively works with local businesses, churches, school PTO's, and other organizations to help meet the needs of students.

### **Gifted Handbook – Approval**

As with all building and district handbooks, the district's Gifted Handbook requires annual board approval. The board approved the gifted handbook as presented and the changes will be implemented as of September 17, 2013.

### **Request to Bid Food Service - Approval**

The school district is in its final year of a 5-year contract with OPAA! Food Management. State statute requires school districts to seek bids for contracted food service within a 5-years of the initial contract date. The board approved the request to begin the bidding process, which should take approximately 2-3 months.

### **2013-2014 Bus Route Approval –**

Each year, the state requires school boards to officially set and adopt bus routes and bus schedules for the current year. Dr. Smith provided the school board with a list of these routes and schedules. The school board unanimously adopted all routes.

### **College and Career Readiness Testing Policy – First Read**

West Plains High School is measured on how well it prepares its graduates for life after high school. This is known as college and career readiness according to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. While many West Plains High School students take the ACT or SAT®, COMPASS®, or ASVAB test as a predictor of college and career readiness, there are those students who do not. In order to meet the Missouri School Improvement Program 5 (MSIP 5) measurement, West Plains High School principal is asking the board for approval to administer the (ASVAB) to any senior who has not taken one of the following tests: ACT®, SAT®, COMPASS®, or ASVAB prior to March 1st of 2014. While the ASVAB is an armed services test, there is no service requirement associated with taking the test. Additionally there is no cost to the student for taking the test. The board conducted a first read of the college and career readiness testing policy and will be asked to approve this policy at the October board meeting.

### **Academic Update –**

During the professional development day on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, teachers across the district met with Casey Blau of [greateducators.com](http://greateducators.com) for the purpose of improving student assessment processes. Dr. Thompson shared that the intent of this training was to ensure that our student assessments accurately reflect what is being learned.

Students enrolled in the new Online Foreign Language program at the high school gave a brief testimony on their successes with the program. While any new program requires ongoing assessment and policy revisions, the general consensus has been positive from both students and teachers..

### **Annual Audit Update –**

Dr. Boyer reported Schultz, Wood and Rapp have completed the “on-site” portion of their audit. At this point, the firm has not indicated any issues with the district's practices or record keeping. Dr. Boyer feels very positive about the current status of the department and is very appreciative of the hard work the business office exerts every day.

### **Capital Improvement Update –**

Adams Construction has begun the process of renovating South Central Career Center building located at 407 Thornburg. These renovations will allow for the majority of the Adult Programs offered through SCCC to be consolidated on one campus.

The district is currently in the bidding process for the Ag-Science facility. Bids will be opened up on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Special thanks to the First United Methodist for their help on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Nearly 50 members volunteered their time to meet painting needs throughout the district. In addition, the group provided all supplies and paint worth over \$400.

### **New Hires**

Shelly McClure – Elementary Recess Monitor

Elizabeth Norris – Paraprofessional

**Superintendent Report-** *The Superintendent report provides an opportunity for the Board of Education to be updated on various educational topics and items of interest to West Plains Schools.*

Michelle Nigliazzo presented to the board the official copyright certificates from the United States Patent and Trademark office. The district is now officially copyrighted and trademarked. Mrs. Nigliazzo has been very instrumental in the trademarking process for the district. The process was extensive but knowledge and experience made it a very smooth process. Mrs. Nigliazzo said she was honored to work on the project as she is proud her children are Zizzers. She went on to give examples of how each of her own children has been positively influenced by the school district and its faculty.

Emily Grisham expressed appreciation on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club of the Greater West Plains Area for the support the board has shown to the program and also to the faculty and staff for the \$10,000 donation to help send 84 students to the club. Mrs. Grisham went on to say if the board had not given the program access to the West Plains Elementary facility this summer and now the former administration office on W. 1<sup>st</sup> street, the program would not be where it is today. The club is now serving almost 200 students from the West Plains community.

### **Next Regular Meeting-**

The next board meeting is scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 5:00pm

*School board meetings are held monthly on the third Tuesday of each month at the West Plains School of Education Office, 305 Valley View Drive, unless otherwise posted.*