



## West Plains Schools Board Notes

October 15, 2013

**Pledge of Allegiance-** The Pledge of the Allegiance was led by members of the West Plains Middle School Junior Beta Club as well as faculty and staff representatives from each building. The Junior Beta Club shared the results of the National Convention held in June and announced the winners to the board. Additionally, faculty and staff members shared a brief summary of what's happening in their classrooms.

### **Regular Agenda**

#### **MSBA Conference Summary – Outstanding Board of Education Award**

The West Plains School Board attended the 2013 Annual Conference sponsored by the Missouri School Boards' Association (MSBA) in cooperation with the Missouri Association of School Administrators (MASA). The event was held October 3rd through October 6th 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. The conference specifically focuses on ways school boards can influence the improvement of student achievement in Missouri's public schools. Dr. Mulford 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 on programs and processes already in use by the district.

The West Plains School District Board of Education was named an "Outstanding Board of Education" for Teaching, Learning and Assessment by the Missouri School Boards' Association at the MSBA conference. The West Plains School Board was one of only 10 boards across the state to receive the award and was recognized for their work in leading West Plains Schools and striving for excellence as a board unit. The West Plains School District is thankful for the board's leadership and dedication to the students, staff, and community.

#### **SCCC Accreditation Update –**

The South central Career Center (SCCC) had its first initial visit from the Council on Occupational Education (COE) on Monday, October 14. The COE reviewed SCCC's documentation, visited the career center programs and went on a tour of the main building, the automotive building and the Jackson Street campus. Mr. Laughary, Dr. Cotter, and Cindy Doss went to Rolla on Tuesday for orientation that provided direction as to what can be expected as the career center moves toward self-study and preparation for accreditation under COE. The career center has received positive feedback from the COE team and is on the agenda to be approved as a candidate for accreditation at the upcoming COE Executive meeting in Dallas on November 8-10. Mr. Laughary and Dr. 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.

#### **College and Career Readiness Testing Policy – Second Read & Approval**

As part of the Missouri School Improvement Program 5<sup>th</sup> cycle (MSIP5), 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 MSIP 5 measurement, the West Plains School Board has been asked for approval to

administer the (ASVAB) to any senior who has not taken one of the four college and career readiness assessments 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. Board members approved unanimously the testing policy.

### **Capital Improvement Update –**

Dr. Luke Boyer presented a summary of renovation at the South Central Career Center. He shared that construction continues to run smoothly and that over the next few weeks quite a bit of progress should be seen, including the addition of the second floor in the existing warehouse.

### **Ag Science Bid Results – Review & Approve/Reject-**

A representative from SDA Architects reviewed the bids for the new Ag-Science building with the school board. The district was hopeful to keep the project confined to an \$800,000 budget, but the lowest total bid came in at just under \$1.1 million. Dr. Boyer presented feedback from committee members as to their recommendation for moving forward. The recommendation was made to reject all bids and scale down the components of the project so that the end result will more closely align with the projected budget. The recommendation to reject all bids was approved by the board and the board plans to reopen the bids in December.

### **Health Insurance Renewal-**

Coventry Health Plans offered the district a renewal for 2014 with a 4% increase to district health insurance rates. The board approved the renewal rate proposed by Coventry for January 1, 2014 – December 31st, 2014.

### **MSBA Policy Updates – BBBA & JHG**

The Missouri School Boards Association (MSBA) recently provided school districts with policy updates to ensure compliance with recently passed legislation regarding mandated reporter training and board member qualifications. The school board approved the policy updates as written.

### **New Hires**

Deb Boyle – Paraprofessional

Elaina Martin – Paraprofessional

### **Resignations**

Mary Waterhouse – LPN Instructor

**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.*

Dr. Mulford shared information with the board regarding the parent teacher conferences scheduled for Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, at the West Plains Elementary, West Plains Middle School, South Fork Elementary and West Plains High School.

Additionally, Dr. Mulford shared with the school board that the West Plains School District received an Excellence in Education award from West Plains Board of City Pride. The award was derived from the recent news on the West Plains High School ACT scores and district APR scores.

### **Next Regular Meeting-**

The next board meeting is scheduled for November 19, 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.*