

Superintendent's Dashboard

April 8, 2016

- The Organizational Study Committee met on April 6, 6:30 PM. The report and recommendations will be ready for Board review in June. I would like to schedule a workshop meeting in July at our next meeting to have a full discussion of next steps as it relates to facilities.
- The Strategic Action Plan will be placed on the April 12 agenda for Board consideration/action.
- APPR negotiations continue and good progress was made at the last meeting. We have scheduled two additional meetings into May. SED has eliminated the requirement to apply for an additional extension. It will automatically be given. However, they have cautioned that this will be the last extension and that if districts do not have an approved plan by September 1st, they will lose State aid for the 15-16 and 16-17 school years. If we fail to meet the deadline, we will lose approximately \$1,000,000.
- As a reminder, our second meeting in April will be held on Wednesday, April 27. The May meeting will remain on May 10, and will commence directly after the budget presentation. Mr. Bischooping, District Superintendent, and his staff will also be attending the May 10th meeting to present program information. The second meeting in May will be May 24th.
- The elementary and middle schools will not be holding summer school this summer. All mandatory extended year summer school (special education) will be held as in the past. Our high school students will also be able to attend summer school as in the past (to be held at Red Creek).

After reviewing the results of students participating in the previous 3 years of summer school it is clear that our current model is not improving student outcomes. The principals and Melanie Stevenson will visit a number of successful programs around the state this summer and create a model that has proven successful.

We have received a number of calls from parents that have been upset with the decision. The overtones of those conversations have been more in the area of child care than improving student skills and academic outcomes. You may receive feedback from unhappy parents and we may have people visit the Board to voice their concerns. The reality is that we need to implement a summer school program that is successful in improving student outcomes. To continue a program(s) that has/have been unsuccessful would be a poor use of resources.

We plan to have a report to the Board during the upcoming year on a new program for the summer of 2017.

- Cypriana Porter picked up a petition to run for the Board.
- The Budget Committee met on Wednesday and discussed progress to date. In order to build toward phase 1 of initiating the Strategic Action Plan a number of new teachers will be hired in each building. Since our State Aid is much lower than in past years (because of the elimination of the Gap Elimination Adjustment) we will be recommending reducing 13 Teacher Assistant positions. This recommendation is based on conversations with building principals as to the need and academic effectiveness of our current configuration and what will be needed moving forward to support our plan. NRW has 25 Teacher Assistants, many more than similar sized schools. Many of these positions were hired under grants that have long since expired and yet were retained. This makes up over \$500,000 of our current budget and we believe hiring teachers would greatly enhance our capacity and our improvement efforts.

The only other reduction would be a ½ time technology teacher as per the principal's recommendation.

We will also be recommending a 1.9% tax levy increase which will generate approximately \$170,000

- Dr. Timbs will be presenting our work on a five year financial plan at our meeting on Tuesday.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ed or me. Also, if you email Ed or me a questions or request for information, please copy the entire Board as another member may have the same question.

Enjoy your weekend.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

4-12-16 BOE Meeting, 6:00 PM

*4-27-16 BOE Meeting, 6:00 PM (*Wednesday Meeting to approve BOCES Budget)