

Board Report May 1, 2018  
Jill Mattingly Special Education Director

It is hard to believe that we only have a few weeks left of school. Our department is finishing up our corrections for our monitor. Everything will be submitted by May 16th and I am confident in the quality work that our special education staff has done and am proud of the improvements we have made in writing compliant IEP's. Through having well written IEP's, we are better able to meet the needs of our special education students. Next school year we will be utilizing the staff at OPI more for professional development.

I went to a training for the System 44 reading program last week. I am so excited about this program and feel that it will fill the need that our students have in learning phonics. Over the summer I will be analyzing which students would benefit from this program, purchasing materials, and arranging for staff to be trained. We will also be utilizing the intervention materials that go with the Wonders curriculum to support students who need more intensive interventions in reading. The self-contained classrooms will be getting curriculum for social studies and science that I think they will be excited about.

I am planning an end of the year fun days for all of the students, teachers, and the parents of students in special education. We will be having two events, one for the Middle School and High School, and a second event for all other grades. We haven't picked the date and locations, but will keep you informed. This is always a great way to end the school year.

Our department is going to lose a few key staff members at the end of the year. Barb Kapp will be retiring and Mary Stone is taking a job in another district. Both will be missed greatly and it will be hard to fill their shoes. These positions will potentially be very difficult to fill due to the additional educational requirements need for credentialing.

Our last Special Olympics trip will be this month. It will be in Great Falls starting May16th. We have over 23 athletes. This year we had a change in policy to ensure that all adults who are attending the trip have had background checks and have also passed a drug screening. I am excited that I get to attend this event. The students not only get to participate in the sports competitions, but will also go to a carnival and a dance. I will put pictures in my final board report.