
MEMO

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: HILLARY STANIFER, SUPERINTENDENT
DATE: DECEMBER 2023
RE: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The HLS and Working Cash bonds were sold on December 5, 2023. While the rates weren't as good as we hoped for during our call on the previous day, the rate was still better than what was quoted to us one month ago. The funds will arrive by the end of the month. Prior to that, Cara Wallace and I have a call with an investment advisor from PMA so we can discuss how to maximize our earnings until the time that they are needed for the HLS or track and field project.

This month, students will be taking their second benchmark assessment using i-Ready. We are hopeful to see 50% progress on students' learning goals at this time of year. The results obtained will be used to determine intervention groupings and instructional plans for the next few months.

BREF has agreed to being the 501c3 organization to receive any funding that comes into the district for the Friends of Blue Ridge. Friends of Blue Ridge funds that are received will be dedicated to financial assistance for students eligible for free meals. That assistance could be covering the cost of a field trip, the supplies needed in the cabinet making class, etc. We are pleased to have this opportunity for our community members to assist in a very tangible way. A special thanks goes out to Kevin Richardson, from Country Financial, for his leadership and passion for this project.

The elevator at BRHS has been repaired after an extended time waiting for a new part. The duct insulation project on the roof of BRHS has been completed and the chiller project at BRHS is underway. The HVAC project at Mansfield is in progress. The unit that failed was placed so closely to the remaining units that there were additional steps added to the project, in addition to the mandatory cassette cleaning that was done over Thanksgiving break by TMI. The most recent plan for the HVAC unit is to use a newer model than what was originally recommended. The newer model has the same capacity and is smaller than what was originally recommended to us. This will allow us to simplify the project and provide the same efficiency, but it will add an extra one to two weeks onto the project timeline as the new part has to be ordered.

E-Learning information has been sent out to families so they are prepared for any potential changes to learning plans due to weather. As a reminder, when we are able to predict inclement weather, we will strive to communicate with staff and students in a timely manner so the proper materials can be taken home, allowing us to use an E-Learning Day successfully. If we have a total surprise in weather conditions, it will be likely that we would use an Emergency Day. E-Learning Days are days of instruction, so they do not lengthen the calendar. Emergency Days are not days of instruction, so for each one used, there will be a day added at the end of the year.

Other Tasks:

- Attended and assisted with Thanksgiving Meal for Schneider students and families.
- Attended Triple I with five board members and presented on a panel discussion with the board president on the topic of Board Self-Evaluation.
- Bushue Management Meeting
- Met with BRHS Environmental Science students to listen to their culminating project ideas.
- Administrative Council
- WHOW Radio Show
- Met with Sue Homes from IPA regarding the IL Report Card and Summative Designations
- Meeting with Scot Wachter, IGW Architect
- Bonds 101 Webinar
- PSIC Membership Meeting
- Library Committee Meeting
- BACC Board Meeting
- ROE Superintendents' Meeting
- County Facility Sales Tax Meeting
- Meeting with BRFT President
- PRESS Webinar
- Classroom visits in all three buildings
- Bullying Webinar
- Skyward to Qmlativ Migration Weekly Meetings
- S2Q trainings
- IASA Illini Division Meeting
- DeWitt and Piatt ROSC Meetings
- Additional Safety Meeting to plan for April 2024 Reunification Drill