

CONFIDENTIAL

CHELSEA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD UPDATE DECEMBER 12, 2014

Field Trip Request

Attached is a field trip request from Independence Hall to attend the Special Olympics Winter Games in Traverse City from February 3-6, 2015. We plan to have this on the January agendas for review and approval, but are putting it “out there” now as the timeline is a little tight since there is no “second meeting” in December. Please let me know if you have any concerns.

Legislative Update

The “lame duck” session continues to move along. We are hopeful that there is still a chance of the evaluation bills being passed. The holdup for these evaluation bills is a substitute in the Senate that significantly changes things. Our associations continue to advocate for the House bills as passed. The “early warning” bills are still alive but the legislature seems very fixated on the roads bills so I would not be surprised if this one does make it through unless there is quick agreement early next week on the roads topic. Finally, it appears that there will not be any action on the 3rd grade reading, school bond loan fund, or letter grades bill in the current session.

Negotiations

Here are a few items related to negotiations that I think you might find interesting:

- Two local settlements this week in Saline and Whitmore Lake. A few key points on each:
 - Whitmore Lake – They have agreed to join the MESSA consortium, are taking a 4.9% pay reduction, and are converting their sick and personal time to “paid time off” (meaning teachers can take the time off at their discretion without any explanation) with the second day off will be unpaid. Intereting development as the CEA has proposed both MESSA and “paid time off”. In Whitmore Lake’s case, they clearly felt they needed to give on these items as a trade to get the necessary pay reductions.
 - Saline – They have settled with a two year pay freeze and changes to employee contributions to health care. Saline in already in the MESSA consortium. I do have the summarized document from Scot Graden. What they have devised is interesting but complicated. I have some notes from Scot and am reviewing to understand further.
- Here is an article about the recent settlement in Galesburg-Augusta. I note this one because they have gone 2-1/2 years without a contract! Looks like a variety of

reasons and nobody feels too good about it but knew they needed to move forward somehow. I surely do not think it is going to take us that long, at least I hope not! Here's the link:

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2014/12/galesburg-augusta_settles_tec.html#incart_river

- Here is an article about the Rochester schools doing mid-year layoffs. They are laying off 8.5 teachers to save \$1.2 million. Doing my research for our own fact finding, I have a plethora of information at my fingertips so I did a little quick fact gathering on Rochester. As of 12-13, Rochester had a 10.7% fund balance (for them that about \$16 million) and had a budget deficit. This year, they have an approved preliminary budget that is essentially balanced (adding \$14,000 to fund equity). It appears that these changes are in an effort to keep their budget balanced. Just another indicator that our goals are not unreasonable or out of line with others. Here is the article:

<http://www.theoaklandpress.com/social-affairs/20141210/rochester-schools-issuing-mid-year-layoffs-after-12-million-budget-shortfall>

Substance Abuse Data

I have included some data from our recent survey of all students in grades 7-12. Reiley and a group of our students are using this some pieces data (along with prior surveys) for a presentation to the City Council on Monday night. I wanted to make sure you had the raw data in case anything “comes up” (I don’t think it will). Independently, it is difficult to interpret any real meaning from the data. Once we are able to put it in context with prior surveys we will be able to make determinations about successes, necessary interventions, and future priorities. We will make sure to find an opportunity for an update from SRSly in the coming months.

MDE Audit of District Provided Professional Development

Our record of district provided professional development are being audited by the Michigan Department of Education. We will be submitting lists of meeting dates, agendas, etc. prior to December 23 for review. It feels like we must be getting near the end of the list of potential “audits” as there have been many in the past two years.

Upcoming Events

- December 22, 2014 – January 2, 2015 – No School – Winter Break
- Monday, January 12- 6:30 PM – Board Meeting – WSEC
- Monday, January 19 – No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Monday, January 26- 6:30 PM – Board Meeting – WSEC
- Monday, February 9 – 6:30 PM – Board Meeting – **South Meadows**
- Friday February 13 – Monday February 16 – No School – Presidents Weekend
- Monday, February 23 – 6:30 PM – Board Meeting – WSEC
- Monday, March 9 – 6:30 PM – Board Meeting – WSEC
- Monday, March 23 – 6:30 PM – Board Meeting – WSEC
- Monday, April 20 – 6:30 PM – Board Meeting – **North Creek**

As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.