



School Board Communication from the High School Principal

January 8, 2018

Happy New Year!

Here are some of the events and activities that have occurred or continued since the December Board meeting:

PLT Leadership Team – December 12 – I am finding these monthly meeting to be very positive and helpful in keeping us motivated and encouraged in the work the PLTs do on Wednesday mornings. As usual, we heard updates from representatives of some of the teams and provided support and guidance for challenges shared by any member of the team. At this month's meeting we reviewed the efforts for teachers to develop and use performance scales with students and to become more standards-based in our assessment of student learning.

CTECH Meeting – December 13 – Nick Truxal, Mike Carolan and I met at CTECH in Rochester with the Rochester superintendent, curriculum director, finance person, and principal of CTECH. We discussed the possibility of a partnership to share CTE teachers and make CTECH courses available to Dover-Eyota students. We also received a tour of the facility. There is a willingness from both districts to enter into a mutually beneficial arrangement. The biggest challenges will be the logistics of staffing needs and availability, teacher licensing, and prerequisite courses.

Faculty Meeting – December 14 – This month's faculty meeting was used for Nick Truxal to do a follow-up to the first set of "instructional rounds" teachers completed in early December. Nick led the teachers through some reflection and feedback exercises in preparation for the next set of instructional rounds in February.

Responsibility Grades Task Force – December 14 & 19 – We fine-tuned the draft of the categories and descriptors. We also discussed when and how we would like teachers to make this assessment and how and when we would like it reported to students and parents. I now need to work with JMC to find out how well the software can accommodate our plans.

RCTC Meeting – December 15 – Mike Carolan and I met with two people from RCTC - Dale Amy, the RCTC PSEO Coordinator, and Dr. Ginny Boyum, Dean of Academic Effectiveness and Innovation. We discussed PSEO a bit, but the meeting was mostly about RCTC's plans for approving and supporting high school concurrent enrollment teachers and opportunities for high school concurrent enrollment courses through RCTC.

Bus Driver Meeting – December 19 – The superintendent and principals met with Dustin Pagel and the bus/van drivers to discuss any transportation-related issues and concerns.

Peer Helper Teacher Appreciation Breakfast – December 20 – Peer Helpers provided this holiday-themed breakfast for teachers in the morning before school and gave each teacher a booklet of positive and kind messages that students had written about that teacher.

MS Redesign Meeting – December 21 – John Ostrowski, Ryan McRae, Katie Johnson, and I met to brainstorm. We established some 7th and 8th grade program content requirements and scheduling preferences aimed at improving the Our next step is to establish a time schedule that can accomplish as much of our desired changes as possible while also accommodating the necessity of sharing teachers between the high school and middle school.

Panel of Recent D-E Graduates – December 22 - Once again this year, Mr. McRae took advantage of recent Dover-Eyota graduates being home on break after the fall semester to organize a panel of eight college students to speak to the Senior Class. Thank you to Ben Callahan (Northwestern in St. Paul), Madison Field (Buena Vista), Rylee Forshee (Bethel), Colin Jorde (Northwestern in Iowa), Kirby Krogstad (South Dakota State), Liberty Nguyen (NDSU), Theo Nguyen (NDSU), and Kalli Schaefer (University of Minnesota – TC) for their time and experience on the panel. Mr. McRae collected the questions for the panel from seniors earlier this school year.

Electrician Career Speaker – Andy Toft, a representative from the local electrician's union spoke to eight 11th and 12th grade students who are interested in the electrician trade.

Sharing Tree – Our first year of running this program by committee went well with a few lessons learned. We are collecting feedback and ideas from the people involved to make the program run even more smoothly next year. Thank you to all involved including Student Council, Honor Society, Peer Helpers,

ExCEL and Triple 'A' and ExCEL Award Nominees – Congratulations to Alex Bushman and Valorie Ziemer, this year's nominees from Dover-Eyota for the Triple 'A' Award, and to Salem Birkholz and Bailey Wallace, our nominees for the ExCEL Award. I hope to have any of them who are available present for recognition at the Board meeting. They will also be recognized and receive their nomination certificates at our annual Academic & Leadership Awards Night in May. Winners of the statewide awards will be announced in March.