

TRSD Board Report for June, 2014

Thank you to Ron Crume, Ron Lengwin and Kate Dwyer for being at our NV graduation to hand out diploma covers and to wish our senior class well on their road after the ceremony. 106 students walked at our graduation, 10 of them from MAC and among those 6 who were fifth year graduates. James Platt, Linda McClanahan and teacher Rob Money earned special recognition for persistently working with some of our kids who had major hurdles to overcome on their way to completing graduation requirements. The ceremony itself was designed by our senior class, and the bulk of the public presentations were completed by our students. One of the professionals who provided services to our class called the ceremony “the right mix of levity and ceremony.” I am proud of the work done by our students to collectively establish a graduation that showed who our families are and the kids who earned the diplomas that were presented.

As we wrap up the year, we are also laying groundwork with our faculty for the adjustments we plan to make with our kids to make our classes all the more engaging and effective. On June 12 our faculty spent the morning addressing the question: “What do we need to adjust in our curriculum and climate to make our students more engaged in the work they are asked to do so that the academic achievement they produce is of higher quality?” We have an especially challenging group of seniors to be in the class of 2015 and we started today on sharpening their focus toward graduation. We are committed to raising the graduation rate at our school and we are firmly aware that many of our students come from extremely difficult backgrounds. When I reflect on the number of staff who daily counsel kids about the things they are dealing with that get in the way of their academic achievement, I am deeply appreciative of the work we have been able to establish with kids here in the last two years.

We have three vacancies to fill (one in PE/Social Studies is filled as of today) on our teaching staff: one science teacher and one business teacher plus two classified vacancies. I will deal with these and hope to have a full staff by the end of June. I will send one or two letters throughout the summer to our staff so that they can think about what we can achieve together. My goal is to build a very strong, kid oriented and curriculum rich staff so that kids at North Valley will be well served for many years to come.

Among the notable student accomplishments of note this spring at North Valley are the following:

Venessa and Kerrissa D’Arpino led our girls track team to an OSSAA 4A Track Championship. They were champion and runner up in the 100, 200 and 400 meter events and they shared the relay championship with two freshmen, Megan Hoback and McKenzie Comyford in the 4X100 relay. The twins, who are OSU full scholarship for academics and athletics accounted for the bulk of the points our team earned. Doug Dahl, a junior was state champion in the triple jump. Congratulations to these athletes and their coach, Aaron Samuelson.

Our Free Design Class was able to put on a full musical production with five performances. The show was well received by the community and the students felt a strong sense of accomplishment. Jim Vermilya, their director was able to assemble a strong support crew to make the show a success.

Our Life Skills program and one of our other classes combined to build a set of square foot gardens, one of which is wheelchair accessible so that our kids in Adam Wagman's class can get some hands on work in and have a chance to learn biology and plant science firsthand.

Our Skills USA students had a very successful run at the state conference. We had multiple champions and Ken Klumpp was named Chapter Advisor of the Year by his peers.

Our students participated in a Synergy pilot project involving individual student input of class selection, including the 8th grade students at Fleming. We are in the process of building a master schedule through the software at the same time we are training our new registrar, Jon Kieffer. Students will get their schedule on the first day of school in the fall.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve the students and families at North valley. I feel that we are making significant improvements in the relationship we share with families for the improvement of the programs we offer to our kids.

Sincerely,

Dennis Misner, Principal

June 6, 2014