

District Report

Tuesday, August 12, 2014



High School

- Mr. Swenty has announced that the hiring process for 2014-2015 is complete. Brian Cole is recommended as the new Social Studies instructor and Laurie Beyer as the new study period supervisor.
 - Brian Cole is an initial educator and comes to us from the Wisconsin Rapids area.
 - Laurie Beyer is a Tomahawk resident who had children matriculate through the Tomahawk school system.
- The staff has participated in professional development sessions enhancing their professional practice.
 - Student performance growth trainings for the entire THS staff were held on August 6th and will be held again on August 13th. The agenda of these trainings focused on the preparation of Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) and Educator Effectiveness groundwork.
- Opening of school information
 - THS registration day on August 21st: All students are required to attend. They will receive their school term information packets, course schedules, student ID's and pay their yearly registration fee. The class of 2018 members will receive their ChromeBooks.
 - THS Open House for the class of 2018 is scheduled for Tuesday, August 26th from 6pm to 8pm. Students and parents will have the opportunity to go through a mock daily schedule and meet their 2014-2015 instructors.
- The fall parent's athletic meeting was held on July 31st. Parents received the information needed before the start of our fall seasons. Fall sports schedules and event workers are gradually being finalized.
- Football practice kicked off on Wednesday, August 6th.
- Mr. Saari has been working with local companies/entities to secure athletic training services that were lost this past spring due to budgeting from the provider. Talks with Tim Thorsen at Spine and Sport and a local doctor have been ongoing.
- Mr. Saari will be meeting with staff at the Lincoln County courthouse to discuss agenda items for the upcoming school year to facilitate a more effective process for students who become truant.

Middle School

- Ms. Detert reports that Renaissance students have been busy preparing for the first day of school Pep Rally. Signs have been designed and the script planned. Once again teachers will perform a dance. Every attempt will be made to outperform last year's dance.
- The Middle School still has one 8th grade English Language Arts position to fill. The hope is that the position will be filled by the end of next week, August 15th.

Elementary School

- Ms. Antell reports that the elementary student population continues to grow and that many classes are at full capacity in grades 1, 2, 3, lower multi-age, and upper multi-age. Grade 4 is at 24 students each (2 classes) and grade 5 is at approximately 22 each (2 classes).
- We are still in the process of securing a long-term sub for a new grades 3/4 classroom which was created to lower the class sizes of fourth grade and to house five third grade students who put other classrooms above sage numbers of 18.
- Ms. Antell has met one-on-one with almost 40 of her elementary staff members, has met several parents, and numerous students. In response to what people Love about Tomahawk Elementary School, answers included "the staff", "the students", "the parents", and "the community". Ms. Antell has indicated that she believes TES to be an incredible place to work and that everyone has been very welcoming!
- Ms. Antell and Mrs. Langeberg attended a "Managing to Lead" conference which emphasizes working together effectively and efficiently. She has indicated that dividends from this conference are already paying out.
- TES PBIS kick-off is currently being planned.
- TES Open House is planned for Tuesday, August 26th at 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. for all elementary parents to attend.

District Level News

- Many staff members have put in countless hours this summer preparing for state mandated changes and the 2014-2015 school year. Just a few of the trainings included Educator Effectiveness, Personalized Learning, and EduClimber, our new test data management system.
- Ms. Baker attended the WASDA Summer Legal Conference from July 30 through August 1. Legal updates were provided in the realms of: Labor and Employment, Special Education, the Legal Aspects of “Public Participation” in the Administration and Governance of School Districts, and School and Education Law.
 - On Thursday, July 31st, the Wisconsin Supreme Court held up the constitutionality of Acts 10 and 32. On Friday, August 1st of the Legal Conference, a two hour session was provided for participants to review the provisions of Acts 10 and 32.
- From July 14th through the 17th, WIPFLI, LLP and associates were in the building conducting our annual audit. The Board of Education will receive their full report sometime this fall. Initial reports suggest we will have some minor corrections to address, which are typical to previous reports.
- On July 15th, the Executive Committee met.
- On July 17th, an Ad Hoc Board Committee met to discuss Board Compensation.
- From July 23rd through the 25th, I escaped my local environs and took a motorcycle trip with a friend to Green Bay to attend the annual shareholders’ meeting. I had a great time away and the weather cooperated, for the most part.
- Shortly following the audit, the district offices were reunited into their new permanent home just inside entrance #6 (Fieldhouse, Auditorium, and Pool). The amount of time saved simply by traversing the entire building each and every time a form or a check needed to be signed has improved efficiency and communication tremendously. Additionally, deliveries and visitors to the building have found the “bringing together” of the offices to be extremely helpful. Many teachers, support staff, community members, and businesses have stopped by to see the new offices and have expressed how nice they look while remaining simplistic.
- On July 29th, the Personnel and Negotiations Committee met and conferred with TEA regarding the Tomahawk School District Alternative Compensation Model.
- On August 4th, CESA 9 held its Annual Convention. Mr. Dirks attended the Convention.
- Other important tasks that have been in full swing include:
 - Technical revisions to the Employee Handbook
 - WEA Insurance meetings (4) with both current staff and retirees, on August 6th and 7th
 - NEOLA Policy Work on August 7th
 - Office of Civil Rights (OCR) compliance work dating as far back as 2005 that was never completed
- Extreme thanks to Mr. DeBels and his entire summer staff for their work throughout the building. Gradually each and every room and hallway is being prepared for the return of Staff and Students. Additionally, thanks are due to Mr. Alderton and his staff for the endless and thankless hours spent preparing over a thousand electronic devices, along with hundreds of other technologies, for the start of another school year. Finally, the whole administrative staff (directors and principals) for the ‘above and beyond’ time they have been in the building working to be ready for the onslaught of initiatives coming our way. I cannot say enough about the work ethic and progressive spirits of this team. There is truly no meaning to the obligation days listed in their contracts.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities for Board Member Participation:

- Curriculum & Assessment and Operations Committee meetings on Tuesday, August 19th at 5pm and 6:15pm respectively.
- Tuesday, September 9th: Annual meeting to start at 6pm, Finance Committee at 6:30pm, with the Regular meeting of the Board of Education at 7pm.
- Tuesday, August 19: 5:00 p.m. Curriculum & Assessment Committee Mtg.; 6:15 p.m. Operations Committee Mtg. (both held in the HS LMC)