

Dr. Joshua J. Isaacson
Superintendent

De Soto School District #73



Superintendent's Office

Ensuring learning, growth, and success for all.

Dr. Clint Freeman
Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Doréan Dow
Assistant Superintendent

To: De Soto School District Staff
From: Josh Isaacson
Date: August 19, 2016
Re: Summation of August 18, 2016 Board of Education Meeting

Please accept this communication as an abbreviated highlight of actions from the regular and executive sessions on August 18, 2016. The official board minutes will be posted on the home page of the district website. The official minutes from each meeting are posted in the arrears by one month due to the approval of the minutes at the following board meeting.

District Report:

- Dr. Isaacson reported first day count numbers for each grade-level and the total count of 601 students at Athena, 803 students at Vineland, 443 students at DJHS and 972 students at DHS for a total of 2819 students district-wide. The reported August 18, 2016 first day hard count numbers for each building were compared to the enrollment numbers for each grade-level as well as total district-wide enrollment numbers of 2837 students in May 2016 and 2863 students in August 2015. Dr. Isaacson reported that the numbers will continue to be monitored in an effort to assess staffing needs, as not all students currently enrolled were in attendance on the first day of school.
- Mr. EA Boyer reported on progress on the junior high school, indicating that the steel roof decking installation will begin shortly with the intention of having the roof completed by Friday, August 26. Mr. Boyer also reported on how the colored concrete floor would be poured after the masonry work is completed to protect the finished floor. Mr. Boyer stated that the newly installed drainage system is functional and operated effectively during recent rainy weather.
- Mr. Patrick Lawlor reported on how workers who shifted from the high school theater project to assist with work on the Vineland project, due to over 40 lost weather days, will be starting back up at the high school soon. Mr. Lawlor stated that the exterior handrails at Vineland will be completed in the next few days along with other exterior items. Mr. Lawlor reported that the gymnasium, elevator, library and retention basin have yet to be completed. Mr. Lawlor also commended De Soto School District staff members and local contractors on their efforts to get portions of the project completed prior to the first day of school.
- Dr. Freeman reported that aspect regarding food service and transportation went very well for the first day of school. Dr. Freeman also stated that a Propositions KIDS Communication Update was developed and distributed to staff.

- Mrs. Dow reported that 78 staff members participated in summer curriculum writing and served as teacher leaders on August 12. Mrs. Dow also reported on the back to school professional development, new social studies resources, and the 1:1 Chromebook distribution. Mrs. Dow indicated that technology support communications have been created and are beginning to be distributed as part of the Chromebook rollout beginning the week of August 22, 2016.
- Mark Ferrell reported on MSBA legislative sessions suggestions updates.
- Mr. Grindstaff reported on the progress by staff to get the building ready for the first day of school and the excitement from students upon seeing the new construction.
- Dr. Britain reported that Athena was off to a great start with a fabulous first day, which included great relationship building with students by staff members. Dr. Britain stated that the PBIS committee was also working hard to get students leadership opportunities.
- Mrs. Mahn reported that the attendance percentage number for the first day for the junior high was very good. Mrs. Mahn reported that the work by custodial, maintenance, and staff members to get the building ready for students was amazing.
- Dr. Rickermann reported on a successful freshman orientation as a result of the active participation from activity and club sponsors. Dr. Rickermann reported that the high school had a good showing for open house as well as a very good first day of school.

Personnel:

Resignations:

- The board approved the resignation of Jean Osterwisch, Athena paraprofessional.
- The board approved the resignation of Matthew Kitchell, JH paraprofessional.

Employment:

- The board approved the employment of Sondra Wiley, Athena paraprofessional, for 2016-2017.
- The board approved the employment of Ron Geisler, Management School paraprofessional, for 2016-2017.
- The board approved Nick Stearns as seventh grade boys' basketball coach for 2016-2017.
- The board approved Brad Wehlermann as eighth grade boys' head football coach for 2016-2017.
- The board approved Tim Kasmarzik as seventh grade boys' assistant football coach for 2016-2017.
- The board approved Christina Oberlin as HS yearbook sponsor for 2016-2017.
- The board approved Mary Sapper as HS Boys Basketball Cheer sponsor for 2016-2017.
- The board approved Anthony Werner as HS Assistant Wrestling coach for 2016-2017.
- The board approved Amy Hickman as Athena Great Club sponsor for 2016-2017.
- The board approved Cyndie Moses as Athena Great Club sponsor for 2016-2017.

New Business:

- The board approved the setting of the incidental levy at 3.4657 and the debt service levy at 0.8707 for a total levy of 4.3364.
- The board approved RFP bids #4, #5, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, #13, #14, & #15 for Vineland.
- The board approved AWF bids #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, #13 for De Soto Junior High.
- The board approved Change Order #1 for De Soto Junior High.
- The board approved revised Policy Regulation #4505 Personnel Services.
- The board approved three and a half paid training days for substitutes for 2016-2017.
- The board approved the Data Governance Plan for 2016-2017.
- The board approved the participation of the De Soto High School Cross Country team at the Chile Pepper Cross Country Meet, Sept. 30-October 2, 2016.

Closing:

We made it, thanks to all of you! Enjoy the weekend and Go Dragons!

With Dragon Pride,

J. Isaacson