

*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: December 16, 2016  
Re: Summation of December 15, 2016 Board of Education Meeting

Please accept this communication as an abbreviated highlight of actions from the regular and executive sessions on December 15, 2016. The official board minutes will be posted on the District Communication 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 on November enrollment numbers for each grade-level and the total count of 190 students at ECC, 607 students at Athena, 824 students at Vineland, 450 students at DJHS, and 969 students at DHS, for a total of 3,040 students district-wide. A yearly comparison of AESOP absences was provided and due to recent fill rates, the substitute committee will be reconvening in January. A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at De Soto Junior High School on January 19, 2017 from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. Lastly, Dr. Isaacson reported on the Board Candidate Filings and the possibility of budget withholdings from state funding due to the impact of tax cuts and sluggish revenue growth.
- Dr. Freeman reported on progress on the junior high school, Vineland, and the high school auditorium projects. Kitchen equipment installations will be finalized in the next two weeks in anticipation of being fully operational for students return on January 3, 2017. Vineland punch list items and the remaining work in the library will be completed over the holiday break. The auditorium is close to being ready for steel and with weather cooperating, should be installed in the next few weeks.
- Mrs. Dow reported on initial discussions about student devices at K-6, fall EOC testing, book donations, and Title I Schoolwide planning. Technology needs were discussed during data team meetings at both elementary buildings over the past few weeks to get input from staff on decisions about student to device ratios to ensure support for teachers' lesson and assessment planning. Fall EOC testing ran from December 5 through December 15 at DHS. The Home Works! Program donated over 1,400 books to distribute to our students as part of their Title I services, and giveaways are planned during upcoming Literacy Nights. Mrs. Dow also shared plans taking place to move from Targeted Title I to a Schoolwide Title I program in FY18.
- Mr. Ferrell reported on MSBA updates including upcoming legislative session and February 14, 2017 MSBA Legislative Forum at Jefferson City.

## **Personnel:**

### Employment:

- The board approved James Maddock as volunteer high school baseball coach for 2016-2017.
- The board approved Cody Hunter as junior high wrestling coach for the remainder of the 2016-2017 season.

## **New Business:**

- The Board approved the Consolidated Federal Programs Title I and Title II report.
- The Board approved the HS Proposed Course Additions.
- The Board reviewed the Policies 2315 and 4750 (1st reading).
- The Board approved the WAF bids #23 and #24 for De Soto Junior High Bond Project.
- The Board approved the RFP bids #19, #20, and #21 for Vineland Elementary.
- The Board approved the HVAC Modifications for Vineland Gym Offices.
- The Board approved the COMTREA Student Assistance Program agreement.
- The Board approved the National Junior Honor Society to attend State Convention-March 7-8, 2017.
- The Board approved the HS Volleyball to attend tournament at SEMO-September 8-9, 2017.
- The Board approved the Utility Easement Agreement with the City of De Soto.

## **Closing:**

De Soto Staff,

Cold weather has arrived as well as the midpoint of our school year. Through classroom visits, various activities and events, and in passing conversations with folks, it is evident that great things are happening at the De Soto School District. I am proud to call De Soto home and thankful for each of you and the part you play as a member of our De Soto family. Cookies will be delivered to each building next week from the Board of Education as a small token of thanks during this special time of year.

Growing up, the holidays were always a time for celebrating great traditions like eating oyster stew on Christmas Eve, attending evening services, and opening one gift before Christmas morning. Although we did not have traditions like Santa Claus, we received more than we needed and sometimes more than we deserved, well at least more than my siblings deserved. Whether your holiday involves getting together with family, spreading the joy of the Christmas season, or starting a new tradition, I wish you and your family all the best.

As a member of the Dragon family you are welcome to come by on Christmas Eve for some oyster stew. It is not the best tasting, but the taste alone has never stopped the tradition from being great. Have a wonderful holiday season and Go Dragons!

With Dragon Pride,

*J. Isaacson*