

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: September 16, 2016
Re: Summation of September 15, 2016 Board of Education Meeting

Please accept this communication as an abbreviated highlight of actions from the regular and executive sessions on September 15, 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 on August enrollment numbers for each grade-level and the total count of 163 students at ECC, 605 students at Athena, 812 students at Vineland, 445 students at DJHS, and 998 students at DHS, for a total of 3,023 students district-wide.
- Mr. EA Boyer reported on progress on the junior high school, indicating that the pouring and finishing of the colored concrete flooring, window installation, and sod planting is planned for the week of September 26. Mr. Boyer also reported that the draining system for the cooling unit has been completed, eliminating the water that was running down the hillside behind the JH. Mr. Boyer stated that a portion of the asphalt will be completed behind the junior high in the near future and the remaining asphalt will be completed once the auditorium project is near completion.
- Mr. Patrick Lawlor reported that the painting and paving at Vineland had been completed this past week. Mr. Lawlor reported that the gymnasium athletic equipment was being installed and that preparations for the installation of the bleachers were being completed. Mr. Lawlor also reported on the progress of the foundation and removal of the siding, insulation, and studs at the auditorium site at DHS. Mr. Lawlor also reported how a preexisting waterline that was discovered under the auditorium foundation was being relocated. Mr. Lawlor stated that over the next few weeks, the masons would begin laying the auditoriums 18' block wall on the end of the building and work would also begin on the retaining wall preparations on the south and west sides of the auditorium.
- Dr. Freeman reported on the Vineland gym floor installation and outlined why aspects pertaining to moisture mitigation were not being recommended after options were reviewed. Dr. Freeman provided information on the cost of the floor installation vs. the cost of moisture mitigation, the limited warranty of one year on moisture mitigation, input from the synthetic floor manufacturer, and input from Mr. Lawlor.

- Mrs. Dow reported that initial MAP data was looking very promising and that specific information would be shared once the embargoed period was lifted by the state. Mrs. Dow shared information pertaining to the September 16 professional development day as well as work by the PDC team's planning efforts to stay focused on Missouri Learning Standards, Technology, and Communication. Mrs. Dow also reported on the student art work in the board room supplied by building art teachers.
- Mark Ferrell reported on MSBA updates including the qualification of Amendment 3 for the November 8th ballot. Mr. Ferrell also stated that there is an app for MSBA schools for teachers and administrators to assist in emergency situations, the 2016-2017 school personnel survey is now open, and the MSBA conference is scheduled for September 29-October 2.
- Mrs. Schmitz reported that 100% of students attended open house on August 22. Mrs. Schmitz stated that paras would be participating in professional development on September 16. She also shared upcoming activities at the ECC, including the Krispy Kreme fundraiser, Spirit Week, Homecoming Parade preparations, and a visit from firefighters on September 26 and 27.
- Dr. Britain reported that Athena Grandparent's Night had an increase of 50 individuals from last year with 177 individuals listed on the sign-in sheet. Dr. Britain shared PBS expectations, data team progress, work by staff to improve consistency in communications, and the increase of 100 students participating in breakfast program from last year based upon staff recommendations of breakfast procedure changes. Dr. Britain reported on how students and staff were utilizing the new Chromebox lab and Chromebook carts. Dr. Britain provided information on upcoming activities, including Spirit Week activities mirroring those throughout the district. She also shared the following dates:
 - September 16 - Open House for the new kindergarten classroom families
 - September 21 - Kindergarten field trip to Eckert's
 - September 30 – School Pictures
 - October 10 & 11 – Fire Department visits
- Mr. Grindstaff reported on the teamwork displayed by staff as construction is finalized as well as the positive feedback from the community on the construction. Mr. Grindstaff shared information on professional development activities for September 16, Chromebooks and digital literacy, Chromebooks and iPads utilization, and Google Classroom usage by students and staff. Mr. Grindstaff provided information on upcoming activities, including preparations for the September 23 Homecoming parade. He also shared the following dates:
 - October 3 – Grandparent's Night
 - October 10-19 – Stuff the Bus
 - October 21 – Annual Haunted School/Trail
- Mrs. Mahn reported on Character Education Lessons, Student Council Elections, data team meeting progress, the positive referral system, and the building-wide independent reading and conferencing. Mrs. Mahn reported that all students have been issued a Chromebook and many staff members are using Google Classroom. Mrs. Mahn stated that the JH was emphasizing technology as a verb and not a noun and shared the DJHS News was moving to a Google Classroom format. She also shared information on the DTV YouTube Channel. Mrs. Mahn shared the following dates:
 - September 27 – First day of TASK
 - September 30 – Muffins with Mrs. Mahn
 - October 7 – Author visit

- Dr. Rickermann reported completion of the first round of teacher observations, September 16 professional development activities, and focusing on everyone being on the same team during recent faculty and student advisory meetings. Dr. Rickermann indicated that although class sizes were up due to current cohort numbers, staff was doing an outstanding job making adjustments. Dr. Rickermann reported on the 1:1 Chromebook implementation at the high school, activities of the Chromeland class, the usage by students and teachers in the classroom, and that the high school had a good showing for open house, as well as a very good first day of school. Dr. Rickermann shared the following dates:
 - September 16 – Military Appreciation Night
 - September 18 – National Honor Society Induction
 - September 23 – Homecoming Parade starting at 3 p.m.
 - September 24 – Homecoming Dance

Personnel:

Resignations:

- The board approved the resignation of Julie Elder, Vineland Speech-Language Pathologist.
- The board approved the resignation of Cathy Schanz, DHS nurse.
- The board approved the resignation of Angela Huskey, ECC paraprofessional.

Employment:

- The board approved the transfer of Katie Wood from Athena nurse to DHS nurse, for 2016-2017.
- The board approved the employment of Natalie Moser, as Athena nurse, for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year.
- The board approved the employment of Stacey Waldeier, as Athena kindergarten teacher, for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year.
- The board approved the employment of Allyssa Peanick, as JH paraprofessional, for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year.
- The board approved the employment of Lori Howerton, as ECC paraprofessional, for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year.
- The board approved the employment of Marquette Kaempfe, as ECC paraprofessional, for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year.
- The board approved Ashley Stitchling as JH co-student counselor sponsor.

New Business:

- The board approved the Ameren Missouri Easement.
- The board approved the Special Education Local Compliance Plan.
- The board approved the Professional Development Committee Report.
- The board approved the 2016-2017 PDC Goals, Mentors and Budget.
- The board approved the Parents As Teachers Report.
- The board approved the Transportation Report.
- The board approved the Maintenance/Custodial Report.
- The board approved the list of obsolete/surplus items.
- The board approved RFP bids #9-Revision 1, #16, #17, and #18 for Vineland.
- The board approved the TREND Officers to attend the Prevention Leadership Conference Nov. 4-5.

Closing:

Good afternoon, Folks,

Hard to believe we are in mid-September. October and the end of the first quarter are close at hand and Thanksgiving will be here and gone in no time at all. One hundred and sixty eight student days seems to tick by a little quicker than it used to, making each moment all the more precious. Thank you for giving De Soto students your best each moment of everyday! Enjoy the weekend and Go Dragons!

With Dragon Pride,

J. Isaacson