



Our Future, Our Commitment, Our Students

Friday Update 10/14/5

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Special Called Board Meeting	10/17/5	7:00 p.m.	MMC
Early Release Day	10/19/5	----	Traditional Calendar
APs Meeting/Academy	10/25/5	4:00 p.m.	CCMS
Board of Education Personnel Committee	10/25/5	5:00 p.m.	MMC
STAC Meeting	10/26/5	4:00 p.m.	CCMS
SHAC Meeting	11/4/5	8:30 a.m.	WRRA
Board of Education Meeting	11/7/5	7:00 p.m.	MMC
PTA/PTO Council Meeting	11/10/5	7:00 p.m.	MMC
Dropout Taskforce Meeting	11/10/5	4:00 p.m.	BHS
Veterans Day	11/11/5	----	No School
Principals' Meeting	11/16/5	8:30 a.m.	MMC
Early Release Day	11/16/5	----	Traditional and Year Round
United Way Educational Grants Reception	11/17/5	7:00 p.m.	MMC
APs Meeting/Academy	11/22/5	4:00 p.m.	FES
Thanksgiving Holiday	11/24+25	----	No School
STAC Meeting	11/30/5	4:00 p.m.	LHS

Principals' Meeting: There are many wonderful and exciting things happening in Franklin County Schools. I have visited nearly all our schools, and I'm impressed with your determination to make a difference in the lives of all students who attend Franklin County Schools. I also attend faculty meetings, and I'm asked many questions, but none as difficult as this one: "What do I do when my plate is full?" It's a question for which I don't have a satisfactory answer. So, I posed the following three questions to the principals and staff at the October Principals' Meeting: 1) What is essential to the core business (teaching and learning)? 2) What is important to the core business? and 3) What can be abandoned and/or modified?

Our essential tasks are focused on reading, writing, and mathematics (or the equivalent at middle and high schools). What is important is focused on those activities that support the essential tasks, activities that are not duplicative, and activities that can be completed using efficient and alternate methods. What this means is -- if there is an easier way, more efficient way, or a method that does not duplicate what we have done in the past, then do it. The last question is more interesting and difficult all at the same time. What can be abandoned (activities that are obsolete, unnecessary, not focused on teaching and learning) or modified (can we do it in a more efficient manner)? They suggested the following: 1) System-wide calendar to avoid more than one major event each day, 2) A meeting schedule that honors classroom time, 3) Improve the timeliness and efficiency for communicating important information, 4) If a problem can be addressed "virtually" or in a memo – don't have a meeting, 5) Consider eliminating SACS, 6) Streamline suspension appeals process, 7) Eliminate six-week semesters in favor of nine-week semesters at the middle and high schools, 8) Acknowledge the fact that not every request is "top" priority, and 9) Implement total online application process with online references.

The Leadership Team will begin dealing with these issues at their next meeting. I encourage each school and department to conduct a similar process. We must remain focused on what is truly essential to ensuring that all our students read, write and do math at grade level and close the achievement gap, all within a safe and orderly school.

Congratulations and Thank You, Franklin County Schools: Your generosity is overwhelming! Our staff exceeded all expectations and our goal. Last year, United Way collected \$16,127, and this year we collected \$21,806! Organizers at the schools and in our offices did a great job. A special note of appreciation and thanks goes to Dale Byrns, our United Way chair.

Dropout Meeting: The Dropout Taskforce met on October 5th at Riverside Elementary School. Along with Central Office staff, three dropout counselors and social workers attended. The group decided to work on the following: develop dropout interview form, adopt exit contract, and present draft dropout policy to the Board of Education. Additionally, the task force will continue to work on the following issues: 1) Possibility of offering NovaNet in the evening, 2) Expand CEC for the 2006/7 school year, 3) Search for grant opportunities to support current and new projects, and 4) Working with students who are long-term suspended to prepare for re-entry. The next meeting is scheduled for November 10th at Bunn High School.

Third Grade Pre-Tests Scores: Congratulations K, 1st, and 2nd Grade Teachers! We're going in the right direction.

Year	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006
Reading	71.7	73.5	73.2	78.4
Math	80.2	83.5	85.0	N/A

HCMA (Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association): Marla Peoples (Amanda is on the road to recovery) is selling red bracelets to support HCMA. The bracelets are \$2.00. Send your donation to Terri Wynne, and she will take your order.

NCWISE Update: NCWISE has been busy this week with the clearance and approval of the Promotion/Retention Report and the first month PMRs. As we learn about problems or questions, every effort is being made to resolve them as quickly and easily as possible. DPI has been most helpful, but some things are beyond them and are sent to IBM for resolution. That takes times. During the last two weeks, there have been emergencies that required NCWISE to be down. These have not been during the workday (usually late evening, overnight, or weekends), but improvements and corrections are being made. The data managers have been great in attending weekly work sessions and helping each other. Several have been responsible for resolving issues that assist everyone. Thanks for allowing them the time to attend. Next week, we are beginning a series of training sessions for various groups. Please contact Patty or Jenny if you have a training request for yourself or personnel.

Have a great weekend,

Bert L'Homme
Superintendent