



Our Future, Our Commitment, Our Students

## Friday Update 3/24/6

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Board Facilities Committee Meeting	3/27	6:00 p.m.	MMC
Facility Task Force Meeting	3/27	7:00 p.m.	MMC
Band and Music Teachers Meeting	3/29	4:00 p.m.	LHS
BOE Policy Meeting	3/30	5:00 p.m.	MMC
BOE Budget Meeting	3/30	7:00 p.m.	MMC
All-County Band Concert	4/1	7:00 p.m.	LHS
Board of Education Meeting	4/3	7:00 p.m.	MMC
NBCT Recognition Banquet	4/4	6:00 p.m.	Louisburg College
Art Teachers Meeting	4/5	4:00 p.m.	LHS
BOE C+I Meeting	4/6	4:00 p.m.	MMC
Principals' Meeting	4/12	8:30 a.m.	MMC
Special Called Board Meeting	4/24	7:00 p.m.	MMC
APs Meeting/Academy	4/25	4:00 p.m.	LMES
STAC Meeting	4/26	4:00 p.m.	BHS

**Sincere Sympathy:** We are all so deeply troubled and saddened to hear that Travien Holder, student at Franklinton High School, died from injuries sustained in a car crash. Please keep Travien's family, classmates, and staff in our thoughts and prayers.

**Congratulations!** Judy Stover was recently notified that she will be awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Japan. Judy will travel to Japan next fall to study the Japanese school system. Judy will be a great representative for Franklin County Schools and North Carolina. We will all want to hear about Judy's travels and experiences when she returns.

**Teachers Working Condition Survey** will be online from March 27<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>. Please take time to complete this survey. There needs to be at least a 40% response rate for the survey to be scored and used for your school. The information is valuable to the individual schools, district, and the General Assembly as we all plan for the upcoming school year.

**Leandro Funds:** As many of you know, Franklin County was selected as one of the first sixteen school systems in the state to receive Leandro Funds (DSSF). We know very little about the budget for the 2006/2007 school year. What we do know is that the state board will be using a new formula for determining eligible school systems. This may mean that our funds will be reduced. I want to assure staff and faculty that when cuts are made, we will eliminate "things" before "positions." As soon as we get more information, we will not hesitate to pass it on. Meanwhile, should you have questions or concerns, please talk to your principal, Dr. Ingram, or me.

**Please Read:** If any staff member has reason to **suspect** (not proof) that a student is the victim of child abuse, it is our legal obligation to make the report to Department of Social Services. It is not our responsibility to investigate the matter and gather any details. Your school's social worker can be of assistance in guiding you in making a report, but it will be the Department of Social Services' decision about whether to investigate the matter. If you have any questions about this, please contact Marla Peoples or Wendy Vavrousek.

**Kindergarten Eye Exams:** We have received information from the N. C. School Board Association and the N. C. Association of School Administrators confirming that a preliminary injunction has been granted to prohibit the implementation of the mandated eye exam for students entering kindergarten through June 30, 2007. This means that children enrolling in kindergarten for 2006-07 are NOT required to have a comprehensive eye exam.

**Service Projects:** The Boy Scouts in the Great Northern District are looking for ways to volunteer in our communities. Does your school have a service project need? If so, contact Mr. Marcus Porterfield, Boy Scout volunteer, at 919-405-2628 or [marcus\\_porterfield@symantec.com](mailto:marcus_porterfield@symantec.com).

### **Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council, Minutes March 22, 2006 Meeting**

**NC WISE:** Patty Jones and Jenny Radford discussed some key issues about NCWISE. They emphasized the importance and necessity of teachers entering attendance and grades accurately and in a timely manner. Several issues were mentioned by council members, and answers to those concerns will be forwarded to the council members as soon as possible. Even though NCWISE is not perfect, the state is working hard to stabilize the system. The information system is and will continue to be a valuable tool for teachers and administrators.

**Whole-Faculty Study Groups:** Dr. L'Homme commented on the importance of Whole-Faculty Study Groups as embedded professional development at each school. Research shows collaboration among teachers on instructional strategies is key to improved student achievement. Using a plus/delta (scientific symbol for change) strategy, each council member was given an opportunity to state a positive experience gained from WFSG this school year and any change or barrier to WFSG. The results of the plus/delta are as follows:

## PLUS +

- Being in a different study group this school year has allowed me to explore a whole new world.
- It is nice to have time to talk to other teachers about teaching...that's why we are here.
- People in our group really want students to do the best they can...when working in WFSG, we are focused on what we do.
- WFSG has required us to look and evaluate our teaching, find good strategies in our focus areas... students' test scores on post assessments have increased.
- ...it gives us great ideas and lessons to use in the classroom. When recording on our logs, we rotate the responsibility, and that works!
- Sharing student work, especially with new teachers, has been beneficial. New teachers have been very receptive.
- ..I really like my group and have learned a lot about the new teachers in the group.
- ..I really enjoy my group this year...we enjoy each other, talk about instruction and there is more conversation about teaching (that's why we are here)...we also rotate responsibilities.
- Our groups are vertical, and that is a plus in that it helps prepare my students for the next grade.
- Sharing of ideas and learning to be patient as others share
- Collaboration of teachers (not just classroom teachers)... enjoyed observing each other in classrooms
- Last year, we would have had lots of deltas, but administration allowed us to move to horizontal instead of vertical groups. Being focused on my grade level has allowed all of us to think of our children as a whole. Now, I think of my entire grade level and not just my class. As a grade level, we are closer friends and have a partnership...we have goals and share ideas. The administration and CRT troubleshoot for us constantly...we are know happy to share work samples to help us learn from each other.
- Our groups are now on grade level, and we love it! We focused on a problem area for our grade level and have worked together to solve it.
- Enjoy the time to plan together.

## DELTA▲

- Record keeping is a problem ...we concentrate on the form too much (several schools mentioned this as a barrier or at least maybe change in some way) *several other schools stated that using the computer and rotating the person that recorded had helped tremendously.*
- Post assessment being the same as the pre
- Being on time...we have teachers who are not prompt to the meeting.
- Our group is vertical, and the skills to work on do not always fit the curriculum alignment or pacing of another grade level.
- The log becomes a barrier...we spend too much time worrying about what to write down.
- Depends on the group...sometimes the group requires one person to do more.
- How do all groups in the school benefit from what each group is learning and doing instructionally with their students.....Communicate from group to group? Maybe our Instructional Council meetings are not happening or not working. *Several schools stated how the school could successfully profit from the work of all the groups within the school.*
- Would be nice to have a school-wide skill to work on in all groups and then share results.
- One school stated that forming the groups seemed to be disjointed.
- One school stated the process not yet as fluid as needed to be.....staff still does not understand collaboration, and that in itself is the barrier.
- Often looked at as one more thing to plan, but when together it is fine ....what we do and accomplish is great!
- On days other than early release, all group members do not show up for meeting. Need for administrators to support all teachers being present anytime a group meets
- One high school suggests that high schools group by departments.

A (ZARCA) survey will be sent to all teachers and administrators in early May via email as an evaluation of WFSGs for this school year. A draft of the survey will be discussed at the next STAC meeting in April. Please take the time to complete the survey when it is sent. The information gathered is important as we plan for WFSG next school year. The next Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> at Bunn High School. (Dianne Carter)

**Have A Great Weekend,**

**Bert L'Homme,  
Superintendent**