

Friday Update September 22, 2006 Volume 4 #4

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Board of Education Meeting	9/25	7:00 p.m.	Riverside Campus – A107
BOE Policy Committee Meeting	9/26	5:00 p.m.	Riverside Campus – A107
Hurricane Makeup Day	9/27	----	Year-Round Calendar
Band/Drama/Music Teachers Quarterly Mtg.	9/27	4:00 p.m.	Riverside Campus – A107
Art Teachers Quarterly Meeting	9/27	4:00 p.m.	Mitchell Media Center
United Way Campaign Kickoff - Basketball	9/28	7:00 p.m.	Louisburg College Gym
PE Teachers Quarterly Meeting	10/5	4:00 p.m.	Riverside Campus – A107
Foreign Language Teachers Quarterly Mtg.	10/5	4:00 p.m.	Mitchell Media Center
SHAC Meeting	10/6	8:30 a.m.	Child Nutrition Annex
BOE Meeting	10/9	7:00 p.m.	Riverside Campus – A107
Principals' Meeting	10/11	8:30 a.m.	Riverside Campus – A107
Early Release Day	10/11	----	Traditional Calendar
Teacher Workday	10/16	----	Year-Round Calendar
AP's Meeting	10/17	4:00 p.m.	Riverside Campus – A107
STAC Meeting	10/18	4:00 p.m.	Laurel Mill Elementary
Hurricane Makeup Day	10/20	----	Traditional Calendar
BOE Retreat	10/23	12:00 noon	NC SBA Building – Raleigh

Good News: You probably have already heard, teacher supplement increased again this year by \$300.00! This is the third year in a row that the teacher supplement increased. The Board of Education is committed to raising the supplement each year until we are competitive with our neighboring counties to the north and south.

Biotechnology Forum: Join your colleagues for an “Open House” to discuss the recent biotechnology grant awarded to Franklinton High School. Presentations will include a look at the biotechnology classes currently offered at the secondary level as well as those offered at Vance-Granville Community College. Learn more about the future of biotechnology in North Carolina as well as the biotech industries that are currently operating in the area. You will also be able to tour VGCCs state-of-the-art biotechnology laboratory located on the Franklin County campus. Open House is scheduled for September 28th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at VGCC/Franklin County Campus (Hwy. 56).
(Laureen Jones)

Board of Education Policy Committee will meet September 26th at 5:00 p.m. at Riverside. There are several issues of interest that include the following: Athletic Eligibility, 100% Smoke-Free School District, self administration of asthma medication, and a host of policies that will affect internet use. If you are interested in any of these issues, please attend the meeting and share your thoughts.

Learn More About PBIS: Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an application of a behaviorally-based systems approach to enhance the capacity of schools, families, and communities to design effective environments that improve the fit or link between research-validated practices and the environments in which teaching and learning occurs. Attention is focused on creating and sustaining primary (school-wide), secondary (classroom), and tertiary (individual) systems of support that improve lifestyle results (personal, health, social, family, work, recreation) for all children and youth by making problem behavior less effective, efficient, and relevant, and desired behavior more functional. Visit the PBIS website at www.pbis.org.
(Wendy Vavrousek)

Learn NC 10th Anniversary: Today, over 15,000 educators from 145 countries visit Learn NC every day to access over 6,000 curriculum and professional resources, including lesson plans, articles, and educational websites. Nearly 3,000 copies of these resources are printed from Learn NC website everyday. If you have not done so, please take the time to visit this valuable resource at <http://learnnc.org>.

Gas Prices by Zip Code: Just enter your zip code at the site below, and it will tell you which gas stations have the cheapest prices (and the highest) on gasoline in your zip code area. It's updated every evening. (<http://autos.msn.com/everyday/gasstations.aspx?zip=&src=Netx>)
(Courtesy of Holt Kornegay)

Quality Professional Development Opportunity (NCCAT/NCMTEC): NCMTEC will pay all expenses (meals, lodging, travel stipend and substitute's salary) for two to three teachers from Franklin County to attend each of the following North Carolina Center for Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) seminars listed below. Space is limited, and NCMTEC sponsorship will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. If you are interested, please forward the application package to NCMTEC. Completed packages are due no later than November 1. New teachers and lateral entry teachers, as well as experienced teachers, are eligible.

- *7595 Best Practices in Motivating African-American Children – December 4-8, 2006*
- *7805 Teaching Every Child: Inclusive Classroom – January 29-February 2, 2007*
- *7895 Left Behind: Poverty in America – February 12-16, 2007*
- *7970 New Neighbors: Latinos in North Carolina – March 5-9, 2007*
- *8180 Young, Black and Male in America – April 16-20, 2007*

All seminars will convene at the NCCAT facility in Cullowhee, NC. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Catherine Allen at 888-499-5013 or callen@northcarolina.edu or Leonard King at Leonard.King@ncmtec.org.

Whole-Faculty Study Groups:

- A structure for implementing the School Improvement Plan
- A vehicle for doing what teachers already have to do, i.e., design lessons, find strategies that work, pre and post assess
- A place to work 'on the work' with colleagues instead of working alone

Essential questions as you collaborate in WFSG include:

- ✓ What do students need for teachers to do so that teachers will have a deeper understanding of what they teach?
- ✓ What do students need for teachers to do so that teachers will be more skillful in how they teach?

Using WFSG as an embedded, on-going professional development model affords all teachers a means to collaborate and focus on teaching and learning. Carlene Murphy will be visiting the district September 25-27 to meet individually with principals and central office.

By this time in the year, all of your WFSG should have completed their action plan for the school year and completed at least one log. Principals will bring each group's action plan with their feedback given to each group. Carlene will discuss the structure of each school's groups (i.e, same or changed from last year), the needs assessment in forming the groups (i.e., the data used that led to the group formation based on needs of the students), etc. There will also be discussion on specific needs at each school for the coming year's implementation.

A schedule has been shared with each principal with a window of time for Instructional Council meetings. Each school will have three instructional council meetings with the first being between November 1 and November 10. The second IC meeting window is February 6 - February 16 and the last between May 14 and May 25. Minutes from the IC meetings should be forwarded to Dr. L'Homme and Dianne Carter on or before November 10. Dr. L'Homme and the C&I team will review for the purposes of support to the schools. (Dianne Carter)

Elementary District-Level Math and Reading Study Groups had their first meeting this week. Under the auspices of the Curriculum Resource Teachers, Crystal Williams, Karen McKeithan, and Sharon Dove, 28 teachers representing all grade levels and all elementary schools met to collaborate and support the investigative math initiative. The Math Study Group goals are:

- To build capacity among all math teachers at the building level
- To research and discuss making math more rigorous for all students using research-based readings
- To develop exemplar lesson plans which include investigations and engaging work that the WOW design qualities could be used to evaluate
- To correlate leveled books to math topics in the NCSCS

Each study group member will receive research-based articles as a basis for reading and discussion. Investigative lessons will be added to the webpage. Teachers will begin to match benchmark level book titles, trade books and Big Books to the math curriculum. In addition, model lessons will be videoed and archived on the website.

Sixteen elementary teachers met for the Reading Study Group under the leadership of the following Curriculum Resource Teachers: Jennifer Green, Jackie Hartsfield, Kelly Simonsen, and Maria Collins. The goal of this group is to build a support system for all K-5 teachers in Balanced Literacy focusing on best practices and materials for the continued implementation of guided reading. Research based articles will be read and discussed as a part of the professional growth. The group objectives are:

- To develop book introductions and lesson plans for Benchmark Leveled Bookrooms
- To validate a list of leveled books correlated to the science and social studies curriculum
- To continue to enhanced our knowledge of best practices in balanced literacy
- To video model lessons and archive on the FCS webpage for teachers to view and discuss in grade-level meetings

A district-level writing group will begin their meetings in October to support a model writing teacher's initiative using Writer's Workshop. All curriculum resource teachers will participate in this monthly training with Crystal Williams spearheading the group's efforts. (Dianne Carter)

QTL Training: Selected high school teachers will participate in "Quality Teaching and Learning" training beginning in October. Based on the feedback we've received from other teachers in our district, we are excited about our involvement in QTL. You are invited to search the Web at www.qtlcenters.org to find out more about QTL. This training focuses on activities that coincide with Franklin County Schools' belief that students will learn more than they know now if they are provided with engaging school work. (Eddie Ingram)

**Have A Great Weekend,
Bert L'Homme,
Superintendent**