

Franklin County Schools



Friday Update 5/13/5

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Assistant Principals' Meeting	5/17/5	8:00 a.m.	MMC
Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Committee (STAC)	5/17/5	4:00 p.m.	Edward Best Elementary School
Dropout Committee Meeting	5/19/5	4:00 p.m.	Mitchell Media Center (MMC)
Teacher of the Year Banquet	5/19/5	5:30 p.m.	Murphy House
Retirement Reception for Shelby Street	5/20/05	3:30-6 p.m. (Program 4 p.m.)	Louisburg Elementary School
Last Day of School (Traditional Calendar)	5/25/5	-----	-----
Assistant Principals' Academy	5/26/5	4:00 p.m.	TBA
FCS Honors Program	5/27/5	11:00 a.m.	Louisburg Elementary School
High School Graduations	5/28/5	LHS - 10:00 a.m. BHS - 2:00 p.m. FHS - 6:00 p.m.	Louisburg College Auditorium
Summer Opportunities Fair	6/1/5	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Louisburg High School
Middle School Principals' Meeting	6/7/5	8:30 a.m.	MMC
High School Principals' Meeting	6/8/5	1:30 p.m.	MMC
Last Day of School (Modified Calendar)	6/10/5	-----	-----
Elementary Principals' Meeting	6/13/5	8:30 a.m.	Royal Elementary School Media Center
Board of Education Meeting	6/13/5	7:00 p.m.	MMC
Special Called Board of Education Meeting	6/30/05	7:00 p.m.	MMC
Board of Education Meeting	7/11/5	7:00 p.m.	MMC
Principals' Retreat	8/10/5	8:30 a.m.	TBA
New Lateral Entry Teachers	8/11&12	8:30-3:30	MMC
Initially Licensed New Teachers	8/15-17	8:30-3:30	Terrell Lane Middle School
FCS Convocation	8/19/5	8:30 a.m.	TBA

Principals' Meeting Cancelled: The Principals Meeting scheduled for June 2nd is cancelled. We just received notice that there will be a mandatory Leandro Meeting at DPI on June 2nd at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will not be rescheduled. Principal Meeting business will be taken care of at the level meetings: Middle school principals will meet June 7th at 8:30 a.m., elementary school principals will meet June 13th at 8:30 a.m. and high school principals will meet on June 8th at 1:30 p.m. Sorry for the change - when DPI calls - we respond!

Congratulations Debbie Ayscue! At the May 9th Board Meeting, Debbie Ayscue was appointed principal of Edward Best Elementary School. Although she has big shoes to fill, she is well prepared to assume her new responsibilities. Please join me as we congratulate and welcome Debbie to her new job.

Student Assignment Plan: Student assignment letters were mailed Wednesday, May 11th. The calls and e-mails have already started to arrive. In order to ensure that each parent received a letter and they are aware of the "grandfathering" provision, we will place an advertisement in the local newspapers and radio station. Please refer parent and guardian questions to the principals. If questions and confusion persist, please refer calls to Mrs. Williams, Mr. Piper or me.

May 9th Board Meeting: We made a great deal of progress at the May board meeting. I believe our Board of Education acted with courage and vision. The following is an excerpt from the June letter to parents and the community that will appear in the Franklin Times. It gives a

good summary of what actually happened at the meeting. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call at 496-4159 or e-mail, lhommeb@fcschools.net.

Three very important things happened at the May school board meeting. The board unanimously adopted the Riverside/Louisburg Proposal; they received the latest revision of the Code of Student Conduct; and the Student Reassignment plan was announced.

While these three actions address very different aspects of the education of our children, they are linked by an element that is an integral part of how we do business in Franklin County Schools: the partnership of our community and our schools.

The unanimous adoption of the Riverside/Louisburg Proposal is a wonderful example of parents, teachers, and central office administrators working together to make a very difficult decision. It was obvious that the plan and the board decision was based on compelling data and a need to ensure that every student in Franklin County has access to a superb academic curriculum in a positive and productive educational environment. Crucial to both my proposal and the board's response was the community input at two public meetings as well as numerous phone calls, e-mails and personal contacts. This is exactly how a good partnership works!

In other action that will impact every student, board members received revisions to the Code of Student Conduct. On first glance, the changes appear to be just a little "tweaking" of the existing code. Closer examination reveals a substantial change in the way staff will respond to fighting and gang activity. A community group comprised of students, parents, teachers, principals, administrators, and community members met for nearly a year to completely examine and revise the code. Again, this process was a successful partnership working together to develop and adopt a plan that ensures safe and orderly schools for all students.

It was announced at the board meeting that "Alternate Plan 21" for student assignment was endorsed by the U.S. Department of Justice and plaintiffs, and approved by the federal judge in Wilmington. The difficult task of student reassignment was required by court order, developed by a professional consultant, and adjusted by the board based on input from hundreds of parents and other community members. Parents and guardians of all 8,000 students will be notified this month of their children's school assignments.

As a final word, I would like to assure parents and all community members that plans proposed by this administration and decisions made by your Board of Education are made in the best interest of all children. Any time you have a question or concern – please – hold "our feet to the fire." We are accountable and every proposal deserves public scrutiny.

Have a great week,

Bert L'Homme