

Franklin County Schools



Friday Update March 26, 2004

Budget Update: The budget process is in full swing! The proposed local budget was presented to the Board of Education Budget Committee this past Monday night and generated much discussion about the numerous needs of the school system. Our top budgetary priority will be to increase the teacher supplement. We also have critical needs related to maintenance of school facilities, such as painting, carpeting, etc., and there are many other areas where costs have increased but funding has not increased proportionately. We have worked hard to produce a request that is realistic and justifiable; however, the total amount of our petition will substantially exceed the typical county appropriation received in previous years. We need your help in supporting this request. The Commissioners need to see that parents, teachers, administrators and all others interested in public education are passionate about providing the best that we can for children in Franklin County. Please begin to prepare your staff and parents by keeping them informed. We will continue to keep you up-to-date as we work through this process.

Suspension Task Force: The first meeting of the Suspension Task Force is scheduled for April 29th at 7:00 p.m. at Mitchell Media Center. I need your help in putting the committee together. 1) Please ask your faculty to appoint a committee member who will attend monthly evening meetings between now and January 2005. 2) This Tuesday, I will ask the district PTA/PTO Council to appoint a parent from each school. 3) High school principals, please ask a student from your student council leadership to appoint a student (no seniors!). 4) Principals and assistant principals, please appoint one representative (or more) from each level. I will also invite SROs. Should you have suggestions for community representatives, please let me know. The deadline for getting names to me will be April 23rd. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me. Meanwhile, thank you for your work on this project. It is an important project that will, I am sure, effect the day-to-day operations of your school.

Just Say "No!" (to junk e-mail): The Technology Team is asking for your assistance in fighting the numerous viruses flooding our system. According to Susan Leisy, we now have a protection/detection program on the email server that should make things better. If you receive an email that says (Blocked) or (Virus), you need to delete it without opening it. If it is a message you are expecting, contact the sender and ask that person to resend it. Be sure to let your sender know the message or attachment had a virus. These infected emails can be coming from people you may or may not know. If you have any questions please contact Susan. The very best prevention is to be a responsible user. The practice of sharing jokes, forwarding chain mail, and passing around all sorts of messages unrelated to school puts the whole network at risk.

Warm and Welcoming Schools: SACS teams visited Tuesday at Louisburg Elementary, Laurel Mill, Terrell Lane and Bunn Elementary. According to Shelby, all indications are the results will be very positive. She said the schools looked wonderful, "just like the first breath of spring," with sparkling facilities, happy and cordial staff, and children on their best behavior. It is quite a feather in our cap to have all of our schools accredited. While we know our schools are good, accreditation lets the rest of the world know as well. My thanks to all who worked so hard.

Pass It On: I'm getting some requests from teachers and other school based personnel for copies of the Friday Update. Please make yours available to your staff in some manner—posting, copying, emailing – whatever works for you. The key to good communication is to keep everybody in the loop.

Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council (Meeting Synopsis by Dianne Carter):

The STAC met yesterday with a new dimension added to the agenda items and to their roles. The meeting had a full agenda with discussions that elevated everyone's intellectual thought processes with emphasis on schools being made great by great student performance.

- Dr. L'Homme presented Design Quality to the council members with emphasis on student work with the focus on the core business of schools which is to provide students with high-content, engaging schoolwork. The qualities of student work presented included content and structure, organization of knowledge, product focus, clear and compelling product standards, protection from adverse consequences for initial failure, affirmation of performance, affiliation, novelty and variety, choice and authenticity. After the presentation, Dr. L'Homme asked each council member to bring an example of exemplar work and an example of work from a student that is struggling to the next meeting as well as respond to a few questions on teaching and learning.

Other agenda items included discussion of the following:

- Science Benchmark Test Analysis for grades 5 and 8
- Drop out Data Analysis The council members completed an activity that gave us strategies to take to the next Drop Out Task Force meeting.
- Support for the upcoming budget was discussed with a special emphasis on attending the commissioner's meetings on budget.

One of the issues to be discussed at the next council meeting will be suspensions.

Kudos Across the County

- Edward Best Elementary School earned statewide honors last week when the N.C. Association for the Gifted and Talented recognized principal **Phil Privette** as one of North Carolina's outstanding AIG administrators and teacher **Beth Denton** as an outstanding AIG teacher. I love it when our teachers and principals get the credit they deserve! Good job!
- Terrell Lane successfully defended their Junior Quiz Bowl Title last week, holding off a come-from-behind challenge from Cedar Creek in a very close game with some of the hardest middle school questions I've ever heard. Jr. QB started in Franklin County Schools some years ago and is great training for the Public Library's Senior Quiz Bowl competition held across the state each year. Congratulations to Terrell Lane Middle School and to Tornado Coach **Pam Harris**.
- Franklin County Schools will proudly send two of our top students to North Carolina Governor's School this summer. Louisburg High's **Melanie Lark Benning** has been selected for GS East in English and Bunn High's **Beth Snead** got the nod from GS West in Math. I am delighted Franklin County Schools will be represented at Governor's School by these two students.

On the Calendar: Dropout Committee next Thursday, 3:30 p.m. at Louisburg Elementary.

Happy Birthday! Counting candles instead of money on Monday, **Doug Moore** will probably blow them all out and wish for....say....a million dollars or two – for Franklin County Schools! Next Thursday, April 1 (no foolin'!) is the big day for FES assistant principal **Leslie Baskerville**. And Royal assistant principal **Kim Ferrell** almost got by with a pass -- her birthday was yesterday, March 25. Best wishes to you all.

Have a great week!

--Bert