

Franklin County Schools



Friday Update 3/17/5

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Dropout Committee Meeting	3/17/5	4:00 p.m.	Mitchell Media Center
Board of Education Budget Committee	3/17/5	7:00 p.m.	Mitchell Media Center
Student Reassignment Committee	3/21/5	6:00 p.m.	Mitchell Media Center
Special Called Board of Education Meeting	3/21/5	7:00 p.m.	Mitchell Media Center
Assistant Principals' Meeting	3/23/5	8:00 a.m.	Mitchell Media Center
Assistant Principals' Academy	3/24/5	4:00 p.m.	Mitchell Media Center

All County Chorus: More than 300 Franklin County students from all grade levels who comprise the All-County Chorus performed for a full house March 10 at Louisburg College Auditorium. Guest conductor Denise M. Payton, our marvelous vocal music teachers, master of ceremonies and band director Brian Miller as well as Louisburg College and the Franklin County Arts Council are all to be applauded for their efforts-- the performance was spectacular!

Riverside Plan: Also at the Board meeting I presented a proposal for a two-phase plan for Riverside. The first phase, to be implemented by August 2005, would include moving Pre-K classes from Riverside to their home schools, based on need and location of Title I and Pre-K handicapped students for the 2005-2006 school year. We would then move Riverside Magnet to Louisburg Elementary (school within a school) for the 2005-2006 school year. The last part of Phase 1 would be to move and expand the Creative Education Center to the Riverside campus. Phase 2, with a proposed implementation of January-August of 2006, would move the Central Office to the Riverside campus, with Mitchell Media Center then operating as a full-time Staff Development Center for FCS. I will present a detailed plan and we will have public comment at a Special Called Board meeting next Monday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mitchell Media Center. Please be sure to attend if you have questions or concerns.

MBAJ selected for projects: Monday night the Board of Education voted unanimously to hire MBAJ Architecture to oversee all bond project construction. MBAJ currently is working on the Terrell Lane project and will also facilitate the Site Selection Committee for the new high school in the Franklinton area. Site Selection Committee criteria and goals were discussed and it was proposed that each feeder school (Youngsville Elementary, Royal Elementary, Franklinton Elementary, Cedar Creek Elementary as well as Franklinton High School) have three representatives on the committee, including an administrator, parent and teacher. The committee would also include one representative each from the Soil & Water Conservation District and the Franklin County Planning Department, for a total of 17 members. It was also recommended that all potential committee members be required to complete an application that would disclose any property holdings or conflicts of interest that could impair the impartial selection of a site.

Background Checks for Volunteers: In a follow-up to last month's board meeting, the Human Resources office presented an overview of how some neighboring counties' school systems handle background checks for school volunteers (non-teaching staff), particularly those who accompany students on overnight field trips or who may otherwise be involved with students without supervision. The Board discussed different levels of background checks to be done, based on the volunteers' interaction with the students. We will continue to conduct background checks, including fingerprinting, for volunteers accompanying students on overnight field trips for the remainder of this school year and will develop a detailed policy defining different levels of checks required for volunteers to be implemented for the 2005-2006 school year.

District Accreditation Process: The Board of Education voted Monday night to express its commitment to District Accreditation for the Franklin County School System. What this means is that we will be moving from individual school accreditation to district-wide accreditation. A letter of support from the board is going out to SACS soon.

New policies: Two new policies were adopted at the board meeting. "Administering Emergency Medical Care and First Aid in the School Setting by First Responders" designates those persons authorized to administer emergency medical care as part of their scope of employment with Franklin County Schools. "Emergency Care for Injury and Sudden Illness in the School Setting" requires that parents and guardians annually provide emergency contact information to their child's school, where it will be kept on file for reference in an emergency. The policy also states that no student will be taken home or sent home unless a parent, or someone designated by the parent(s) is at home to accept responsibility for the student and also outlines the principals' responsibility to notify the superintendent's office immediately when any serious injury of a student or teacher occurs while under the jurisdiction of the school.

School Tour, part two: We will complete our bus tour with the new members of the Board of Education in mid-April.

Technology Alert: Time Warner will be upgrading the Internet Line to 10 mgb during Spring Break. All networks will be down during this time. If you have any questions, call Susan Leisy at 496-2227, ext. 241.

**Have a great weekend,
Bert L'Homme**