



From The Superintendent's Desk

Proctor Public Schools, ISD 704

John Engelking – Superintendent of Schools

September 21, 2012



This is my weekly update on the state of the district which focuses on a variety of issues relating to facilities, curriculum, activities, and programs occurring throughout our district. There may be weeks in which I only focus on one or two topics, but I do want to keep you informed. I welcome comments and feedback regarding this update or any of your concerns regarding our district.

Congratulations Lynn Peterson, Your New Coordinator of ATPPS and Staff Development:

Lynn Peterson will be replacing Kathy Nelson as your ATPPS Coordinator and Staff Development Coordinator. Kathy will be administering our School Improvement Grant for Bay View Elementary. Kathy's new and official title will be the Bay View School Improvement Specialist. I am happy and excited for both Lynn and Kathy as they begin their new positions at Proctor Public Schools. We are all lucky to have such talented professionals willing to take on these new challenges.

Class Sizes:

During the summer months, I keep focused on our enrollment and class sizes. Our vision statement states: "Abundant opportunities in a small school atmosphere" and I am committed to insuring that we maintain small class size, especially at the primary grade levels. We are also required to maintain a balanced budget, so the financial constraints of public education adds additional pressure to maintaining small class sizes. Recently, our principals and I attended a meeting with UMD and other area school districts to discuss common issues in education. One of the questions we were asked was: "How do you deal with math and sciences classes of 50?" The Proctor administrative team looked at each other and said, "We don't have those issues." We should all feel good about that!

Although we currently have some larger high school classes, we have made some changes in our middle and elementary staffing to address class sizes. We have added a section to our 6th grade to eliminate large classes. At Pike Lake, we have two first grade classes of 28. After monitoring our enrollment during the first few weeks of school, I scheduled a class size meeting for September 18th at Pike Lake. As a result of our discussions and review of enrollment records, we decided to add a 1/2 time first grade teacher to teach math and reading during the morning hours. We also decided that if our primary grades have sections of 28 or more, we will again meet to discuss expanding our class sections.

As your superintendent, I need to be cognizant of obstacles we face regarding funding. However, I believe these adjustments have been in the best interest of our students and our teachers.

Board Meeting Change for September 24th:

I want to remind you that we have changed the site and time of our September 24th School Board Meeting in order to allow our School Board members to attend Corwin Kronenberg that evening from 6:30-8:00 pm. Our School Board Meeting that evening will be at the Proctor Media Center at 8:00 pm.

Closing Comments:

I made a few formatting changes to this update I call "From the Superintendent's Desk" and will continue to update the looks of this document. I am not including a "picture of my Desk" this year because it just looked a little empty. I'll leave it at that! I welcome your feedback and comments. Have a terrific weekend.

