

SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING 2021

The Scranton School District held its Annual Public Meeting in the elementary library on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to inform patrons of the academic and fiscal status of the school district. Superintendent Toby Cook reported the overall district goal is to provide guidance, leadership and support so that each student may achieve his/her maximum potential and become a useful, productive member of society.

Facilities in the district are all in sound shape. We have completed the agri barn project. With the tremendous response to opening the barn by our students, we are planning an extension on the east end to add more animal stalls. The new gym locker rooms were completely overhauled this summer. The new weight room is nearing completion. Awaiting the arrival of equipment. The district recently approved bids to asphalt several areas around the campus after the new city streets were completed. The elementary school has been at capacity due to the increase in enrollment. The district finally received approval and just began breaking ground this month on this project. Completion is expected to be August 2022.

Enrollment in the district as of October 1, 2021, was reported to be 447 students in grades K-12. Our numbers have held steady around the 450 mark for several years now.

Elementary Principal, Mario Beshears, reported the K-6 enrollment at 241 students. The Elementary School had to replace three teachers who resigned. Ms. Allison Hanks has taken over as the 5th and 6th Grade Reading and ELA Teacher. Mr. Blake Klomfas has taken over as the 5th and 6th Grade Math teacher, and Mrs. Cameron Kremer has taken over as the 5th and 6th Grade Science and Social Studies teacher. They replace Mrs. Hatchett who took a position in lower Elementary in Ozark, Mrs. Robinson who took a position in lower elementary in Western Yell County, and Mrs. Cadman who took a position in lower elementary in Lamar.

The elementary school is offering after-school tutoring to students Monday thru Thursday after school until 4 p.m.

Our high school principal, Doyle Watkins, reported the 7-12 enrollment is 206 students. New instructional staff includes Whitney Bateman - Special Education, Tate Ferguson - Math/Enrichment Teacher and Baseball Coach, and Sheila Villarreal - Title 1 Support Paraprofessional. All high school teachers are designated as Arkansas Qualified for the appropriate area.

The high school is presently offering the required 38 courses to meet state standards. Advanced Placement courses offered are AP Biology, AP Calculus, AP Chemistry, AP Computer Science, AP US History and AP English Composition.

The distance learning lab offers classes in Spanish I, II and III, French I and II, German I and II, American Sign Language I and II, Medical Terminology, Foundations of Health Care, Foundations of Sports Medicine, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Pathology, Psychology, Sociology, Abnormal Psychology, Human Behavior and Disorders, Tourism Industry Management, Arkansas Hospitality and Tourism, Fashion Merchandising, Sports Entertainment and Marketing, Computer Science Programming I, II, and III, Computer Science Cybersecurity I, II, and III, Introduction to Criminal Justice, Criminal Law, Digital Photography I, II, and III, and Orientation to Teaching through Virtual Arkansas.

Also offered through the distance learning lab as part of the Virtual Arkansas concurrent credit program are: Beginning Spanish I and II, English Composition I and II, American History, World Civilization I and II, Experiencing Art, Public Speaking, College Math and College Algebra. There are 34 students participating in this program, taking a total of nine classes. College credit is awarded from our partnering institution, Arkansas Tech University. Concurrent Credit American History is taught on campus by Scranton High School faculty member Shannon Warren.

The Arkansas Tech Career Center allows students in the 10th-12th grades the opportunity to take concurrent credit classes at Paris or Russellville campuses. This year, we have also partnered with University of Arkansas Community College in Morrilton to offer students concurrent courses through the Clarksville High School Career and Technical Science program. Currently, 13 students are enrolled in these programs.

The high school continues to work on improving math and literacy scores. The district has purchased STAR reading, Odysseyware, Discovery Education, Accelerated Reader and IXL Math to supplement instruction.

The High School is a One-to-One school, with all students in grades 7 through 12 being issued a Chromebook for use at school and home.

The latest available data released by the Arkansas Department of Education from the 2019-2020 School Report Card designated Scranton High School as an A School. The school was listed as having the following: Attendance Rate was 96.48%, Graduation Rate was 98%, and Dropout Rate was 1.03%.

The Scranton Opportunity School is starting its twelfth year and is our alternative learning program. Mrs. Shannon Warren is the lead SOS teacher, with Mrs. Megan Gibson teaching a few class periods each day. Three students graduated from the program last year, and we currently have seventeen students in the program. All students are making adequate progress towards graduation requirements. In addition to academic goals, students are working on having better attendance, social and emotional skills, and career possibilities are explored as well.

Mrs. Stephanie Canada is our new Gifted and Talented teacher. She reported that 63 identified students in grades 4 -12 are being served. Students may be nominated for the program by faculty/staff, parents, community members, peers, or they can nominate themselves. General nominations are received any time during the year but are especially encouraged during September and April. The students are identified on the basis of specific and consistent criteria in several areas which can indicate giftedness as outlined in the local definition. This includes above average intellectual ability, creative thinking ability, high achievement, and task commitment or motivation. No single criterion or cut-off score may be used to exclude a student from identification and placement. Referral forms are available on our school website or by contacting the GT coordinator.

Services offered by our gifted and talented program:

High School (9th-12th)

Served through concurrent credit, secondary content, Advanced Placement or pre-Advanced Placement courses.

Middle School (7th-8th)

Seventh and eighth grade students receive services through secondary content classes. Seventh grade is also being serviced 120 minutes/wk pull-out in the GT classroom by the GT teacher. Teachers of all core content classes have received training in providing differentiation for gifted and talented students.

Elementary (3rd -6th)

Third through sixth grade students participate in a "pull-out" program for 150 minutes of direct instruction per week provided by the GT teacher/coordinator.

Elementary Enrichment (K-2nd)

Students in Kindergarten through second grade receive 40 minutes of whole-group enrichment each week. These classes take place in the GT resource room and are led by the GT teacher/coordinator.

Community Awareness/Communication:

A Gifted and Talented link is on our District's web page (referral documents, rules and regulations, Q & A section, and all district policies and procedures are available). Gifted and Talented Facebook page: Provides an opportunity to broadcast news and information to students, parents and community members. Promotes our school's Gifted and Talented Program.

The Parental Involvement Program is facilitated by Mrs. Greta Strobel at the elementary school and Ms. Laura Simpson at the high school. Each school plans activities to get more parents involved in the education of their child. COVID-19 has proved to put a substantial obstacle in allowance for parents and volunteers. Every school is experiencing this at this particular time. We cannot make specific plans based on the unprecedented unknown due to COVID-19 and CDC regulations. We will allow events to happen if the COVID count is not increasing. Therefore, some events may be held at a different time of year compared to the usual. Both schools held Open House this year. Seventh grade orientation was held on August 10th. Both schools hold Parent Teacher Conferences twice a year. The first time in September was held in person with some parents requesting phone conferences. Elementary teachers touched base with every student. The elementary school normally hosts Literacy night, Write about Christmas, inviting parents to come see what their child is learning. However, those events are reassessed closer to the event date. The high school is having a series of guest speakers from families and throughout the community come into classrooms and share their expertise as it pertains to lessons students are learning. Each teacher will have at least one guest speaker come to their classroom this year. If they are unable to come in person, recordings will be made so their knowledge and experience can still be shared with students. There will be a K-12 art exhibit in the Spring. The parents and community will be invited to see the students' art projects from throughout the year. Grades and Attendance are recorded electronically in e-school. Parents have access to HAC which allows them to access the child's grade, attendance, progress reports, and final grades. The school uses an automated phone messaging system to keep parents informed of important announcements and events. The Scranton School District utilizes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and school app to keep parents updated, share pictures, and notification of activities going on around the school. We are able to push notifications to parents for the most important events.

All five school board members received the professional development as required by A.C.A. 6-13-629. Current board members include Hilda Turner, President; Ryan Rogers, Vice President; Adam Fritsche, Secretary; and members Michael Joe Johnson and Carolyn Rhinehart.

The district facilities include fourteen buildings and several storage buildings and ground improvements (covered walkways, fencing) totaling \$15,121,175. The contents of the buildings are valued and insured for \$3,010,695. The district is covered by Arkansas School Boards Association Risk Management Program.

Director of Federal Programs is Mr. Mario Beshears. The district receives federal funds in Title I, Title II-A, Title VI-Reap, Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment. The full amount received is budgeted each year.

Title I – 6501

Scranton Schools is a schoolwide Title I school. We are able to serve all the students in the school with Title I funds, rather than identify lower achieving students and concentrate the funds on those students. This year, the district Title I allotment is \$143,109.48, plus a carryover from last year of \$6,228.06. We are also transferring our Title II-A funds

(\$13,572.98) over to Title I this year, allowing us to have more flexibility in how it is spent, making the total \$162,910.52. We will use the money for the following:

- After school tutoring at the elementary beginning October 4 and ending April 14
- Portions of two elementary aides who will work under direct supervision of certified teachers with identified students
- Reading Interventionist salary/benefits in elementary
- Portion of Federal Programs salary/benefits
- HS math (calculators), HS Science lab equipment
- Technology: smart tvs, chromebook parts, connectivity
- Parental involvement set asides
- Homeless student needs and the backpack program

Title II-A – 6756

The district Title II-A allotment for this year is \$13,572.98. This money was transferred to Title I this year.

Title VI-Reap – 6782

The district Reap grant allotment for this year is \$31,344. There is no carryover from last year. The money is budgeted as follows:

- Smart tvs
- Elementary ipads
- Additional chromebooks

Title IV Student Support & Academic Enrichment – 6786

The district Title IV allotment for this year is \$11,669.39. The money is budgeted as follows:

- Accelerated Reader, Star Reader programs
- Wilson/Fundations literacy supplies

ESSER FUNDS

CARES ESSER I – 6780

Allocation: \$141,751.44

Obligated by Sept 30, 2022

Spent Prior to 21-22: \$123,437.10

- PPE Supplies \$500
- Technology: Cameras \$976.39
- CORT Stipends/Benefits \$2931.61
- Backpack program food \$7500
- Disposable trays, silverware, single serve packets for cafeteria \$6406.34

ESSER II – 6781

Allocation: \$516,615.67

Obligated by Sept 30, 2023

Spent Prior to 21-22: \$243,991.91

Unbudgeted Amount: \$33,416.85 (will use if needed this year for COVID leave; finish out early next year if not)

- K-6 Virtual seats at GFESC \$11750
- Portion of certified teacher salary for reading/enrichment classes \$25875.87
- HS Teacher Aide \$20531.38
- Weight room equipment \$23932.85
- Lexia Learning, Wilson & Great Minds elementary literacy \$28358.48
- HS Math Aide/Interventions \$34759.16
- Replace AC Units, Jan Fans \$30100
- Water Bottle Filling Stations \$4916.55
- Tech: cameras, technology for new elem addition \$15000
- Crisis Mgmt Coordinator Stipend \$4942.62
- Pay for COVID leave days \$39,040

ARP ESSER III – 6795

Allocation: \$1,161,522.68

Obligated by September 30, 2024

Unbudgeted: \$35,550.84

- Elem counselor/HS English (Budgeted again in 22-23) \$54212.78
- Elem reading interventions (Budgeted again in 22-23) \$59258.76
- Upgrade AC units \$13900
- 2022 Bluebird Bus (just received) \$102735
- Portion of another new bus (pending ADE approval) \$69689
- Elementary addition \$500,000
- SCAR policy pay (pending board approval) \$151776
- HS Teacher Aide (Budgeted in 22-23) \$20531.38
- HS Math Aide/Interventions (Budgeted in 22-23) \$34759.16
- Crisis Mgmt Coordinator Stipend (Budgeted in 22-23) \$4942.62

The district is financially sound at this time. We have no revolving loan debt. The district currently has two bonds. The last audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, had only one finding which was the need for more internal control/segregation of duties. This would require employment of more personnel in the accounting department which is not financially feasible at this time. The district has been fortunate enough to transfer funds over the last several years to the building fund, maintaining a steady net legal balance. The net legal balance on June 30, 2021 was \$642,093.52. Our building fund balance was \$2,264,897. The district portion of the elementary addition and playground renovation will be right at one million dollars and will come out of the building fund. We are continuing to maintain a steady net legal balance between \$600,000 to \$650,000. Our budget for 2021-2022 is as follows:

Beginning Balance July 1, 2020	\$642,093
Total Operating and Debt Service Revenues	\$4,306,738
Less Salary Fund Expenditures	\$1,847,958
Less Operating Fund Expenditures	\$2,031,354

<u>Less Debt Service Expenditures</u>	<u>\$164,213</u>
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Projected Ending Legal Balance	\$905,306
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With our enrollment holding right around 450 for the last couple years, the budget is leveling out. The recent growth in the district is costing us due the elementary addition and additional staff members, but we anticipate to maintain a healthy balance while continuing to provide a top notch education to our students.