

**Kirby School District
Report to the Public
Pike County Arkansas
September 15, 2016
6:00 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Putz
Mark Foshee
Brent Swanson
Randy Stewart
Darla Crump
Angie Turner

ADMINISTRATION: Pike Palmer
Dolores Cowart
Tyler Broyles

OTHERS PRESENT: Jaime Johnson
Danielle Brown
Sherri Whisenhunt
Mechelle Smith
Julie Brewer
Debbie Wright
Jeannie York
Jessica Pinkerton
Brandi Tolleson
Marla Stewart
Sara McKinney
Pam Foshee

Kirby School District's annual report to the public meeting was held in the High School Library on Thursday, September 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

The report to the public meeting began with Board President Mike Putz welcoming everyone to the annual meeting. Superintendent Pike Palmer then discussed the following topics:

a) School Vision and Goals

Mr. Palmer expressed excitement about the changes to the school district. Acknowledged it has been a team effort by all parties that has enabled our high school to have an easy transition from traditional class schedule setting to the flex mod schedule in the high school. Going to implement STEM camp one day a week for all elementary students. This year has been a great success so far in the minds of the students, faculty, and staff. Talked a little bit about the schools of innovation

grant and should hear next week if we received grant. This will enable the school to plan and implement more ideas for "Schools of Innovation." State Representative, Justin Gonzalez visited schools today and was very impressed with the things he witnessed throughout his visit. Had high remarks for our school district. Looking forward to a great year and even better one next year.

b) Accreditation Status

During the 2015-2016 school year, Kirby School District had one citation for Standard of Accreditation findings, which was our Gifted and Talented teacher not being fully certified. She is now fully certified.

c) Academic

Kirby School District will continue to meet common core standards. Kirby School District will also continue to improve the professional growth of our teachers through in-service. High School has implemented new schedule with Flex Mod and elementary is doing more hands on activities within the classroom and STEM camps/activities.

d) School Finance

Kirby School District projects to end the 2016-2017 school year with a legal balance around \$847,000, increasing close to \$25,000 from the previous year.

e) Attendance

Kirby School District's attendance was at 94% during the 2015-2016 school year. Our goal for the 2016-2017 school year is to reach 96%.

f) Enrollment / School Choice

Kirby School District's current enrollment is 342. Kirby School District does participate in school choice. Applications must be turned in by May 1st of each year to be eligible, otherwise a legal transfer from the resident district is required.

Elementary Principal Dolores Cowart presented the following Elementary Report:

Kirby Elementary School began the 2016-17 school year with 185 students. Our largest class is 5th grade with thirty-one students.

The elementary curriculum follows the Common Core Standards set forth by the Arkansas Department of Education. There is an emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving as outlined in our ACSIP Plan (Arkansas Consolidated School Improvement Plan), which is now an ongoing process that requires team meetings and updates on a regular basis. Staff training in math and literacy has been a priority. The elementary staff attended the SDE conference where they focused on their Professional Growth Goals as planned in TESS, Teacher Excellence and Support System. K-3 teachers are using *Saxon Phonics* a program that provides solid foundational reading skills. Shelly Greene finished her training with the Apple Group in Jonesboro to become one of the only certified Dyslexia Therapist, one of the few in this area of the state and took additional hours to have this on her license. Vicki Cowart has received training in the Orton-Gillingham Reading Program and provides services to Title 1 Reading Students. With our training and the programs in place, we hope to attain our goal: NO Child should fall through the cracks when learning to read.

Math is also a priority in our curriculum. Our teachers are using *Engage NY Math*, *Moby Max Math*, and *Study Island Math* to ensure the Common Core Standards are being met. The emphasis is on critical thinking skills and problem solving that will lay a foundation for lifelong learning in the area of math.

Using ESL funds, we have purchased the *Rosetta Stone Program* to aid ESL students, this program along with *English in a Flash*, and components of the *Study Island Program* will help students who speak English as a second language become more fluent and proficient in English.

Title I funds play an important part in improving literacy and math skills. With Title I funds we employ a reading and math teacher along with four instructional aides to provide individual assistance to students in literacy and math. NSLA funds are used to provide an after school tutoring program.

With the purchase of Chromebooks it has made it possible for 4-6 teachers to use Google Classrooms in a Google School setting.

Our Gifted and Talented program currently has 14 students.

Our STEM, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math camp was a huge success this summer; we will use one day each week to implement STEM curriculum while adding an ARTS component to it.

K-26 students

First-25 students

Second-23 students

Third-29 students

Fourth-22 students

Fifth-31 students

Sixth -29 students

High School Principal Tyler Broyles presented the following High School Report:

Flex Mod scheduling is "college on training wheels." This schedule replaces the traditional bell-to-bell schedule. It is designed to help train students with soft skills needed to be successful with time management in college or career. Students have blocks of time called mods for independent learning time to use for extra tutoring from teachers or other school matters. If students grades fall, they lose their independent learning time and have to conference with their teacher during that time for ten days to bring up their grade. If the grade does not improve, the students loses all mods of independent learning time and are sent to structured learning time until the grade improves.

We are busing students to CCCUA for concurrent college credit and for courses in the Secondary Career Center. Students are taking concurrent college algebra, fine arts, cosmetology, and welding courses. Many of our students are taking courses in Virtual Arkansas. Virtual Arkansas will offer our students concurrent college credit classes in the spring.

We have gone one-to-one with Chromebooks. All students 7-12 have a Chromebook to aid in their instruction. We are also a Google School. This has allowed students and teachers to communicate more effectively. It has also allowed us to teach students how to email and plan using a calendar. Our focus is on “soft skills” to make students college and/or career ready.

We have had many facility improvements. We built new awnings and seating in the summer. We painted our high school hallways and installed red floor tile to promote school spirit. We have received thousands of dollars in donations to construct a new marquee sign, five new district boundary signs, new score boards, and a billboard campaign.

Technology Coordinator Jessica Pinkerton presented the following Technology Report:

Chromebooks are working very well. We have had very few instances of chromebooks not working or breaking. Those that may have not been working properly or were broken were fixed and then reissued as needed.

The new Aerohive wifi system is working great. There has yet to be any problems with it and it is handling all the devices connected to it with ease.

The network is running great as well. Only minor issues have come up and they were resolved quickly.

We have a few projects we are planning to take on including upgrading the camera system, adding more cameras throughout the school and upgrading and repairing wiring issues in the elementary.

K-12 Counselor Brandi Tolleson presented the following Testing Report:

Kirby's ACT test scores are the highest they've been in 5 years. We are above state average in the areas of Science and Reading. Our composite score average for 2015-16 was 20.0 and the state's average was 20.2.

Kirby School District grades 3-10 took the ACT Aspire Assessment for the first time in the 2015-16 school year. We will take it again this year. In order of our highest scores to our lowest: English, Math, Science, Writing, Reading. Overall, we scored higher than the national average in most areas. Students are being remediated in all needed areas. We will take 4 interim assessments and 10 classroom assessments beginning in October. The results of these assessments will allow the district and state to better track a student's growth.

First and second grade took the IOWA Test of Basic Skills during the 2015-16 school year. This year, the test will change but the state is still deciding what it will change to.

Mrs. Tolleson gave a report on concurrent classes currently offered to 11th and 12th grade students. Classes include:

Comp I

Comp II
Biology
Diet and Nutrition
College Algebra
Trigonometry
Fine Arts: Art
Oral Communication
World Civilization
US History

At the U of A Cossatot campus in Nashville we have 15 students attending the Secondary Career Center for Welding, Cosmetology and Health Services.

Plans for the 2017-18 school year include adding 4 more concurrent classes on Kirby campus.