

Annual Report to the Public
October 11, 2016

Lee Vent, Superintendent:

General Facilities:

- Continued renovation on vocational building with plans to complete next summer.
- Converted one of the “red building” into a classroom and work space for the 18-36 month old pre-school program.
- Completed renovation in the central office.
- Materials have been ordered to install hand rails to home football bleachers.
- Painted office, bleachers, general touch up in hallways and doors at Elementary School.
- General upkeep of all facilities and grounds.

Six Year Master Plan:

- Approved for projects to include in 2017-19 funding cycle eight additional classrooms and gymnasium.
- When current buildings are razed and removed the district needs will be undersized by approximately 12,000 square feet thus justifying the 17-19 Partnership Project. However, the continued declining enrollment may impact the amount of funding.

General Report to the Public:

- The K-12 enrollment has declined three years in a row.
- Each school board member has received or receiving appropriate training through the Arkansas School Board Association, Great Rivers Educational Coop, and First-Security Beardsley Public Finance, our fiscal agent. The training and instruction is required and includes topics relevant to school laws, school operations and powers, duties, and responsibilities of the board of directors.
- Discussed the 2015 legislative audit supplemental findings which have been corrected. Our finance and legal balance are holding strong even during a period of declining enrollment and are constantly monitored in house and with our fiscal agent, First-Security Beardsley Public Finance. We have maintained balances constantly over 50% during the last several years.

- The district has updated the Arkansas Continuity of Operation Plan (ACOOOP). The plan determines operation procedures in the event of a major disaster or catastrophe.
- Constantly improving student health records and immunization records.

Safety:

- Received the second set of seven new buses as part of lease arrangement with Central States Bus Sales. All buses are equipped with latest technology relating to student safety.
- All staff has received approximately 10 hours of active shooter training over the two and half years. The training was conducted by special agents with the AR Attorney General Office, the Black River Technical College Police Academy, local law enforcement agencies and GREC.
- The panic button technology which results in expedited access to emergency situations has been implemented in the past two years.

Monica Gray, Federal and Special Program Coordinator:

Monica Gray gave a report on the 2015-16 Standards Annual Accreditation. As Federal Programs Coordinator she explained what topics must be addressed in the Title 1 meeting held annual with parents each year. She summarized the use of funds for Title 1, Title II, Title 1003a, Alternative Learning, English as Second Language, National School Lunch, Professional Development.

Ms. Gray also gave a brief description on the new ABC Toddler room for 18 to 36 month children opening on Monday, October 17.

Dr. Ruby Ellis, Professional Growth & School Improvement Specialist:

- Evaluations: TESS/ EdReflect/Bloomboard.

I complete these to state Requirements/School Law Requirements.

EdReflect is our evaluation instrument/It's a rigorous process/ formal evaluation takes 4 meetings with a teacher. An informal takes at least 2 meetings.

- Project Director – The project director position is a component of EdReflect and Bloomboard.

I view the work of the mentor's with their novice. The mentor works through EdReflect and Bloomboard. The mentor completes meetings in EdReflect and coaching meetings. They assign the novice resources to complete through bloomboard. I send information to the state through a dropbox account about these sessions. The novice teacher will complete a microcredential through Bloomboard to get their credentials to teach. This is a very valuable service that our veteran teachers provide.

- School Improvement Specialist – Because the high school is a focus school we must have a school improvement specialist. As the SIS I meet with the leadership team at the high school. I complete a weekly report to turn into the state department of education. I also turn in a 45 day report on 4 occasions during the school year. This occurs once each nine weeks. The leadership team and I work on this report to make sure that all in the information is correct.
- I am also the process manager for our Indistar reporting system. We meet 2 times a month and discuss school district decisions/We study Wise Ways research and determine what we are doing as far as indicators in the school setting.

Steven Meek, High School Principal

- The beginning of the school year has gone well. The facilities look great (esp. the Vo-Tech building – new paint, floor, and ceiling)
- We are continuing to implement the Jobs For America's Graduates (JAG) program, and working to partner with local and area businesses to provide job shadowing and internship opportunities. One area of focus this year has been on addressing the needs of our students plan on entering the workforce after graduation.
- We are using the waivers granted to us this Spring to implement 4 new career fields (Law Enforcement, Travel and Tourism, Medical Professions, and Teaching)
- Our online/Virtual classes are going well. At first students struggled with the independent learning environment. Since then students are adapting well and as a result will be better prepared for post -secondary education.
- We have submitted our intent to apply for a school of innovation and are currently in the process of developing a plan. Some of the ideas include more personalized learning opportunities, the creation of flexible scheduling to allow for job shadowing, internships, and work opportunities, as well as the ability to take classes at PCCUA and EACC for concurrent credit.

- Homecoming was a huge success. The student body and faculty did a great job in participating in the many activities which included a Powder Puff, Bonfire, Door Decorating competitions, daily class competitions, and the inaugural hunt for the spirit stick.
- We are currently implementing new curriculums in English, Math, and Social Studies.
- To address our low level readers and those students who are behind in their math and English skills we have implemented a remediation program during 8th period for students in grades 7-8. The program is using the latest software such as Reading 180 and i-Ready English and Math, which allow for students to be tested and then work on their level as it allows the student to grow and improve.
- At the beginning of the Spring Semester we will begin our after school Success Academy which will meet two days a week. This is for students who need additional time and help to catch up on basic skills.
- All students are currently 1 to 1 with the use of chromebooks. The checking out and in process is going smoothly and the technology is being used in all classrooms. Hopefully next semester we may look at allowing students to check out their chromebook to take home.

Linda Hamilton, Elementary Principal

- New Literacy Curriculum includes:
 - Intense Phonics Program
 - Small Group Reading
 - Writers Workshop
- New Math Curriculum
- Several New Computer Interventions
- Self Contained Classrooms K-2 where students don't change classes
- Every child has the benefit of a computer one to one
- RTI (Response to Intervention) committee will meet to better understand student learning styles and needs
- Instructional coaches in Math and Literacy to assist teachers
- New mission statement created by students for students and school Pride.

Jeff Vent, Technology Coordinator:

The district implemented to a one-to-one technology initiative this year. This means that every student in the district, Kindergarten through Twelfth grade, has a digital device. In this case, everyone of our students have a Chromebook laptop computer for their own use.

The existing electronic interactive boards (Smartboards) and projectors are being replaced by newer LED backlit interactive displays. These new devices bring together the best of High-Definition TV display technology along with interactive touch and are much easier to see than the traditional projector/smartboard combination under regular lighting conditions and come with the added benefit of not having to buy projector bulbs as time goes on. We have already replaced 12 of the existing projector/Smartboard combinations and plan to replace 18 more throughout the rest of this fiscal year as the funding allows.

New network upgrades are scheduled to be installed this year. Federal funding was approved that will provide 5 new 48-port network switches at each campus to expand network capacity. These switches have uplink capacities of up to 10 Gigabit. Additionally, 30 new wireless access points will be added at the Elementary campus and 27 new wireless access points will be added at the High School campus. This equipment has already been approved, ordered, and delivered. At this point we are simply waiting for the installers to get to us.

Wide Area Network connections are scheduled to be upgraded from the current 1Gigabit connection between the Elementary and High School to 10Gigabit. The connection from the district to the Great Rivers Co-op in Helena will also be upgraded to the same 10Gigabit bandwidth.

Additionally, the Internet connection that we route through at Great Rivers will be upgraded to