

Southeast Delco School District

Board & Community Update

Southeast Delco Cyber Program Nominated for Transformation Award

The Southeast Delco Cyber program has been nominated for a Transformation award for its work in expanding opportunities for students of Southeast Delco. The purpose of the transformation award is to recognize a person, school / program, or organization whose innovative practices in their online program are transforming education. The result of the innovative practice must be improved overall effectiveness, efficiency, and success of online learning, ultimately leading to improved student achievement.



If successful in winning the award, the district may be invited to attend the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) annual Blended and Online Learning Symposium, be featured in a press release, and invited to present with K¹² at future conferences, events, and webinars.

2015 / 2016 General Fund Budget

Progress is continuing on the 2015 / 2016 general fund budget. The increase in medical benefits, which was initially estimated to be approximately 10%, has now been updated to an increase of only 5.43% for the 2015 / 2016 school year. The district is still waiting for information on increases for prescription, dental, and vision coverages. Those increases are expected to be between 10 - 15%. The PSERS employer rate for 2015 / 2016 is 25.84%, an increase from 21.40% in the current budget year.



The QSCB and QZAB bond issues that the district obtained for the Academy Park construction project receive interest rate subsidies. These subsidies will be reduced by 7.2%, in 2015 / 2016, due to the federal sequestration deductions that began in 2013.

Although the governor has provided his budget projections for 2015 / 2016, the increased revenue amounts have not been reflected in the district's budget. As in the past, the district will not have the guaranteed revenue numbers from the state prior to the adoption of our budget.

The administration will provide an update of the key highlights of the 2015 / 2016 general fund budget at the March 19th Committee of the Whole meeting on Thursday, March 19th.

Kindergarten Registration

Southeast Delco is beginning registration for the 2015 / 2016 school year. Early kindergarten registration will be held at the Kindergarten Center on March 17, 18, and 19. Please call 610-522-4365 to schedule an appointment.

Registration packets, which are required to be completed for registration, are available at all Southeast Delco schools and the Educational Service Center.

To enter kindergarten, children must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2015, and be a resident of the Southeast Delco School District. A list of the documents you will need at the time of registration and additional information is available on our website at sedelco.org. They are also detailed in the registration packet.

District Wellness Committee

The Wellness Committee has completed its second major offering to faculty and staff. Employees had the opportunity to participate in a metabolic syndrome screening on March 4th. The screening measured total cholesterol and glucose by using a non-fasting finger stick, and blood pressure, heart rate, height, weight, BMI, and waist circumference were also assessed.

Testing was performed by Summit Health, on behalf of Independence Blue Cross, and was stationed at two locations within the district to provide easy access for staff. Employees registered in advance for the service, which took about fifteen minutes. Approximately 50 employees participated.

The Wellness Committee is currently planning for the third event of the year, a National Walk at Lunch Day that will take place the last Wednesday in April.

Curriculum Pilots

In April, the pilot team will meet to recommend to the board which grades K - 8 Science series best meets the needs of our students.



Two teachers in the high school English department are piloting Collections and the Holt Anthology as possibilities for new resources in English / Language Arts. They have piloted the Pearson Anthology during the first semester. They will also meet in April to make a recommendation to the board about the series that will most challenge and support our students.

High school Chemistry and Biology continue to pilot a different text for the second semester. Recommendations will then be directed to the board as to which text suits students' needs. Curriculum for all of the above courses will be revised to reflect these resources.

For the 2015 / 2016 school year, the district curriculum cycle will be reviewing the Social Studies texts and curriculum. Samples will be reviewed with teachers deciding which of the sample series to pilot in September of next year.



Math Councils Meet

The elementary and secondary math councils met in the past month. Their purpose is to develop a love for math and to improve math scores district-wide. The elementary council recently met with “24” Game representative, Cred U. Dobson, at DCIU. He shared the First in Math online component, as well as the “24” Game. Upon reflection, the math teachers would not like to begin these initiatives until the next school year.

$$\frac{x^a}{x^b} = x^{a-b}$$

The secondary math group met and reviewed sample questions from the upcoming 2015 PSSA. Both groups are reading *Principals to Actions: Ensuring Mathematical Success for All* from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The group is also planning a District Math Mania Night of Math Games on May 6th at Darby Township School.

New Professional Development Committee Formed

A newly-formed professional development council / planning committee met on Wednesday, March 11th. Teachers and administrators met to discuss both grades K-8 teacher needs and high school teacher needs for professional development for the upcoming school year.

The recommendations from the teachers ranged from the RtII process, benchmark revision, progress monitoring, technology, and math best practices in the grades K-8 sector to vertical alignment with the K-8, and social emotional learning, and cultural diversity in lessons in the high school sector. In general, teachers asked for time to plan / digest / process and collaborate, as well as choice of how to spend that time. Other topics included special education inclusion; different levels of training / range of opportunities for new teachers vs. refresher topics; opportunities for peer observation, cultural diversity, and respect for all. The next step will be to meet on April 23rd to begin to prioritize and plan to meet the listed needs.

Upcoming Special Events

Along with their work preparing for PSSA assessments, district reading interventionists are planning the following events to highlight reading for the remainder of the school year:

- Reading Olympics: Mock Reading Olympics on April 24th at DTS; County Competitions: Elementary and High School on April 27th and Middle School on April 30th, both days at Penncrest High School in Media
- Poetry in Your Pocket Day for Grades K-2 on May 1st
- District Cultural Literacy Night for Grades K-8 on May 18th at the high school (hosted by Sharon Hill)
- Summer Reading Lists



Public Safety Department

The district has received and reviewed the GAP analysis report from Sentinel Services that evaluated the district's current closed circuit camera systems (CCTV) and current electronic transmission capabilities. It also established standards for our CCTV coverage and capabilities going forward. This document will set the framework for a comprehensive, sustainable, and cost effective system that can grow with the needs of the district.

The public safety department in conjunction with the facilities and IT departments are working with several vendors to evaluate various brands and types of cameras, as well as CCTV software management systems. Currently, there are several new cameras in the high school cafeteria and management software has been loaded onto several administrators' computers. This provides an opportunity to test and evaluate the performance of the cameras and software over several weeks.



Going about the process in a methodical, measured way will allow the district to develop a comprehensive district-wide CCTV system that will provide an additional layer of security to better protect students, staff, visitors, and district property.

Future Board Meetings

Committee of the Whole	Thursday, March 19, 2015	6:00 PM
Board Business Meeting	Thursday, March 26, 2015	7:00 PM
Committee of the Whole	Thursday, April 16, 2015	6:00 PM
Board Business Meeting	Thursday, April 23, 2015	7:00 PM

School Events

- End of Marking Period – Tuesday, March 31st
- ***Spring Break – Wednesday, April 1st – Monday, April 6th - No School for Students or Staff***
- PSSA Spirit Week – Sharon Hill School – April 7th – 10th
- Report Cards Issued – District-wide – April 10th
- Kindergarten Field Trip – Adventure Aquarium – April 13th & 14th
- Nelson's BQQ Fundraiser – Kindergarten Center – April 14th – 2:30 – 6:00 PM
- PSSA English Language Arts – Grades 3 – 8 – April 14th – 17th
- Academy Park High School – Parent / Teacher Conferences – April 15th – 4:30 PM – 8:00 PM
- PSSA Mathematics – Grades 3 – 8 – April 21st – 23rd
- Autism Awareness Night – April 28th – 5:30 – 7:30 – Delcroft School
- PSSA Science – Grades 4 & 8 – April 28th and 29th