

Southeast Delco School District

Board & Community Update

APHS Homecoming Celebration

The 2014 Homecoming Week has arrived. Academy Park students and staff are looking forward to joining with community members to support our team and enjoy all the great activities that are planned to celebrate Homecoming.



The festivities started with an Alumni volleyball game on Friday, October 17th and end with an Alumni field hockey game at 9:30 AM on Saturday, October 25th. In between are a host of activities the whole family can enjoy! A favorite event, the annual Powder Puff football game will be held at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, October 22nd, followed by a community bonfire.

Prior to the big game on Saturday, October 25th, all current and past students of all district schools are invited to participate in a district-wide parade that will take place prior to the game. Those wishing to march with their elementary school or the high school are asked to arrive at 11:00 AM to line up and prepare for the parade, which will begin at 12:00 PM. Our legendary football team will be taking the field against rival Pennwood High School at 1:00 PM. In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, one dollar from each ticket purchased will be donated to help in the fight against breast cancer.

These activities and so much more await you at the 2014 Southeast Delco Homecoming Week. Come join the fun, we look forward to seeing you. Go Knights!

Professional Development

A district-wide teacher in-service day was held on Monday, October 13th. Teachers in Grades K through 8 worked with the Delaware County Intermediate Unit (DCIU) professional development specialist, Cindy Kruse, on the topic of *Effective Feedback for Student Learning*. This topic was the third in a series of topics that included *Teacher Language* and *The Growth Mind-Set*.

Teachers learned feedback strategies of timing, amount, mode, audience, and variations in feedback content, such as focus, function, comparison, valence, clarity, specificity, and tone. They also had experience with a phone application called, "Plicker", which would provide instant survey evidence for student feedback. Over the next four months teachers will choose to disseminate a bit differently as a result of this training and will be asked to bring in artifacts that show whether or not this change was effective.

Teachers in Grades K through 12 worked to complete their Student Learning Objectives, which is a segment of the new Teacher Evaluation System from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Another part of this evaluation system, the Teacher Specific Data piece, was explained by assistant superintendent Jeff Ryan. The teachers viewed a film on the prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace. This workshop was led by human resource director Tom Haupert and also included a representative from Lincoln Financial who discussed various retirement savings plans with the teachers.

Funding Through Grants

Southeast Delco School District relies on a variety of funding sources to balance its yearly budget. In addition to local revenue, state and federal grants are awarded to school districts each year. Some grants are given based on population and some on the value of a district's proposal. Formula grants, such as Title I and Title II, are given to school districts based on the student population the district serves. These grants are usually awarded automatically to school districts, the only differences between school districts is the amount of the grant award.

Competitive grants, such as 21st Century Community Learning Centers and Safe Schools are awarded to school districts that complete a rigorous application process. These grants are only given to school districts that provide viable strategies to combat the problem the grant is intended to help solve. Both the awarding of the grant and the amount of each award can be different depending on the district and the strength of their application.

Listed below are the grants that Southeast Delco has been awarded for the 2014 / 2015 school year. District officials will continue to seek out all funding possibilities to better educate the students and the community it serves.

<i>Grant</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
Title I	\$1,277,684	Funds reading interventionists and support in district schools
Title II	\$278,965	Provides teachers to reduce average class size
21 st Century (6A)	\$377,320	Provides STEM education and credit recovery to at-risk students
21 st Century (7)	\$327,126	Provides reading support and enrichment to elementary and middle-school students
Safe Schools	\$30,000	Provides resource officers support for Academy Park High School
Ready To Learn	\$714,565	Helps fund full-day Kindergarten

Staffing and Hiring

The spring and summer hiring season for faculty positions has come and gone. The district hired nineteen new contracted teachers and three long-term substitute teachers. An additional teacher was hired in September and began her employment with Southeast Delco on October 8th.

Since the start of the 2014 / 2015 school year, two faculty members resigned and one new position was created due to an increase in enrollment in our life skills student population. We are currently recruiting for those three positions. Several support staff positions have been filled during the summer months, as well.

A major focus this fall has been on hiring special education aides and personal care aides. The board recently approved several new hires in those areas and it is expected that they will be considering a number of new hires during the October and November board business meetings. We are also working to find substitute bus drivers and van drivers. Several rounds of interviews have been conducted to fill these positions and the district will continue to interview throughout the school year.



Labor Relations

This summer has been active with regard to labor relations. The teachers' association and board of school directors approved a new collective bargaining agreement in June. The summer was spent incorporating the new language into the expired agreement, as well as processing salary increases. This past August, the new contract went to print and every teacher and administrator was given a copy before Labor Day.

The support staff agreement between the board and the Southeast Delco Federation of Support Staff was approved by both sides in August. We have incorporated the new language into the expired contract and each support staff employee and administrator was given a copy of the contract a few weeks ago.

After meeting with the management team over the course of five different meetings, a new Act 93 agreement was reached, which the board approved in September. We have been working on making the changes to the agreement and it will go to print this coming week. All three agreements can be found on the district's website under Office of Human Resources.

As we progress through the fall we are preparing for negotiations with the support staff union as their new agreement was a one year contract and expires on June 30, 2015. We will need a number of board members to participate in the negotiation sessions that start on or before January 10, 2015. We also need to prepare for the meet and discuss conversations with our school police and security group and the confidential employee group as their agreements expire on June 30, 2015.

Safety and Security

District administrators, Bill Whitman, Leanne Hudson, and Charles Baxter attended the Pennsylvania Safe Schools Conference in Grantville, PA in October. The conference consisted of 36 different workshops on a variety of topics in-line with the conference theme of "Keeping Our Children Safe: Strategies for Schools and Communities." The keynote speaker, Dr. James Reese, discussed "Ethics and Integrity in Schools" and the general session speaker, Dr. Sandra Bloom's topic was "How Knowledge About Trauma and Attachment Can Help Us Create Safer Schools." Mr. Whitman facilitated the workshop "Creating Partnerships to Enhance School Safety and Security."



On October 14th, a meeting of the DELCO Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Advisory Committee, as well as a distribution drill was conducted at Penncrest High School. In the meeting, discussions touched on new State and Federal guidelines, the need for schools in the county that are designated as Points of Distribution (PODs) to participate in full-scale exercises in the coming year, and a review of plans on emerging threats that are currently in the news.

District and building administrators attended the 16th Annual Delaware County Safe Schools Summit held at the Drexelbrook Conference Center on October 15th. The summit conducted by the Delaware County District Attorney's Office addressed topics on the new "Delco School Safety NET" an online and mobile platform for school administrators, staff and emergency responders, the "DelCam & Virtual Safety Patrol" networks, lessons learned from managing active shooter events, the rise in domestic violence and abuse in the county, protocols for handling suicide and suicide ideation, updates from the Heroin Task Force on emerging drug abuse threats, as well as an update on revisions to the county's All-Hazards Emergency Response Plan template for schools to

be compliant with Chapter 10 regulations.

Finally, the Raptor Visitor Management System is fully operational in all schools within the district. All visitors to district schools are required to present a government issued photo ID upon entrance. The ID card is electronically scanned and personal data is captured from the ID card and then compared to a national Child Predator Database. All parents who chaperone field trips are required to have their ID scanned in advance of the trip.

DCCC Board Appreciation Dinner

Delaware County Community College will again host school board members from sponsoring county districts at their annual Board Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, November 12th at the Marple Campus. The festivities begin with a reception at 6:00 PM, followed by dinner at 7:00 PM. Board members: Be sure to send your RSVP!

Future Board Meetings

Board Business Meeting	Thursday, October 30, 2014	7:00 PM
DCCC Board Appreciation Dinner	Wednesday, November 12, 2014	6:00 PM
Committee of the Whole	Thursday, November 13, 2014	6:00 PM
Board Business Meeting	Thursday, November 20, 2014	7:00 PM
Board Organization	Monday, December 1, 2014	6:00 PM

School Events

- *APHS Homecoming Spirit Week – October 20th – October 25th*
- *Powder Puff Game – APHS Knight Field – Wednesday, October 22nd – 6 PM*
- *Field Hockey Alumni Game – APHS Knight Field – Saturday, October 25th – 9:30 AM*
- *Homecoming Parade – APHS Knight Field – Saturday, October 25th – 12 PM*
- *Homecoming Game – APHS vs. Pennwood – APHS Knight Field – Saturday, October 25th – 1 PM*
- *APHS Fall Play – The Laramie Project – APHS Auditorium – Thursday, October 30th – 7 PM*
- *1st Grade Word Parade – Sharon Hill School – Friday, October 31st – 9 AM*
- *APHS Fall Play – The Laramie Project – APHS Auditorium – Saturday, November 1st – 7 PM*
- *Teacher In-service Day – No School for Students – November 4th*
- *End of 1st Marking Period – November 5th*
- *APHS Report Card Conferences – November 18th – 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM*
- *Grades K – 8 Report Card Conferences – November 24th – 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM*
- *Grades K – 8 Report Card Conferences – November 25th – 1:30 PM – 7:00 PM*
- *Thanksgiving Holiday – November 27th & November 28th – No School for Students or Staff*