

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 17, 2014

HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

New student enrollment is high again this year. The overall sophomore class that we are recruiting from is about the same size as in past years, but the applications just keep coming in. Currently, we had 573 new students placed in programs with a total of 671 applications. Thanks to our Student Services Department for their diligence in recruiting. Even under adverse conditions, the whole staff and student body worked very hard and did an outstanding job this year during and after Sophomore Visitation and the enrollment period.

COURSES OF STUDY

At this meeting, we are presenting to you two (2) courses of study for your review: Journalism, Principles of Design (semester 1); Journalism, Fundamentals of Journalistic Writing (semester 2); 2 – D Computer Art and Animation; and 3 – D Computer Art and Animation. These are courses that have been offered in the past, but now we are breaking them into semester courses to provide students with more options.

ALL BOARD DINNER

Our All Board Dinner will be April 2, 2014. Our theme this year will be “Pioneer – Proud Partner in the Community”. We will feature several community projects, including our Community Service Day.

CENTRAL REGION OSBA

Central Region is Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at the Villa Milano Banquet and Conference Center in Columbus. We have twelve (12) reservations for Pioneer and MOESC. Please let me know at this Board meeting if you would like to ride in the Suburban. We will leave from Pioneer at about 3:45pm, and then we can stop at the Roadhouse on Route 314 and at Wendy’s on Route 95 to pick up passengers. Linda Schumacher will be driving, but will probably turn the wheels over at Wendy’s to Mr. Grubbs to avoid comments from some of the male administrators about driving skills.

LEVY UPDATE

We are progressing well towards planning our levy campaign in November. We have formed an Internal Key Communicator. This team is made up of staff

members who will help get our message out in their communities. Jennifer Economus, Allerton – Hill has presented our levy strategy to the team.

We also have begun our fundraising efforts and have collected \$10,000 in donations so far. David Conley, Rockmill Financial Consulting, Inc. has presented to the Business Advisory Committee and Financial Task Force. Linda and I have reviewed our financial information with Rockmill Financial, Inc. and Peck, Shaffer and Williams, LLP. We will be proposing to the Board that the November Levy be a Replacement of two (2) 1976 levies. That will return each levy to its original voted millage of .85.

HVAC ISSUES

With the frigid temperatures this winter, our new HVAC system got a true test of how well it can function in below zero temperatures. The Variable Refrigerant System (VRS) in the Main Entrance did okay (it is manufactured by Mitsubishi), but the VRS system (manufactured by LG) in the remainder of the building had some major problems. Our maintenance staff called Clayton Heating and Refrigeration System to repair the system. The Repairmen indicated that the system may have been installed incorrectly. They contacted the contractors to be told that everything was out of warranty. So, we went directly to the manufacturer who sent Refrigeration Sales to inspect the system Refrigeration Sales found major issues with the equipment especially maintaining refrigerant levels due to leaks in the system. With the issues being quite extensive and the system being out of warranty, we contacted our attorney, Desmond Cullimore at Bricker and Eckler. Desmond contacted the OFCC to examine the problems. OFCC organized a meeting with us, the Construction Manager, Architect, the contractor, the commissioning agent, LG, Honeywell and the engineers. They currently have put together a plan and timetable to address the issues with the HVAC system. During spring break all the systems in the Medical Academy wing (2 story wing) will be tested. All other units will be tested after school is out. Everyone is on board except Vaughn Industries (contractor) who wants to review the documents and get back with us to determine their next steps.

PERSONNEL

We have received two (2) retirement resignation for approval at this Board meeting. Bill Kucic, Meat Processing Instructor began his career with Pioneer on August 21, 1997. He is an amazing instructor and FFA advisor. He has taught students life skills; meat industry skills and great work ethic skills. He makes learning exciting and challenging. Although, Bill will be dearly missed, we wish Bill a much deserve retirement. Bill loves nature and will be working out on his many acres growing trees, vegetables, tobacco, fruit trees and any other thing he can find to grow.

John Skulski, Science Instructor began his career with Pioneer in 1987, and then in 1992 he took a job with Beckley-Cardy Group. John returned to Pioneer on August 21, 1998 with a wealth of experience that he brought to the classroom.

John was instrumental in designing an Integrated Science Curriculum that linked science to the Career Technical Programs. John has served on many Pioneer Committees, but he has been especially active on the Discipline Cohort Group that teaches the Bert Simmons Classroom Management Plan to other instructors and serves as a mentor to the instructors. He “Walks the Talk”, modeling the plan every day in his classroom. John has a great rapport with his students and a very caring and dedicated attitude. We are wishing him a very restful retirement. John will be greatly missed by Pioneer and his students.

All other personnel issues are common for this time of year.

