

# **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION February 16, 2015**

## **SOPHOMORE VISITATION**

Most of the 1364 sophomore students from our partner schools and Goal Digital Academy visited Pioneer for Sophomore Visitation on January 27, 28, and 29<sup>th</sup>, although, the weather caused major havoc with our original schedule. We seem to be getting use to weather delays; visits were rescheduled swiftly without a hitch with the last visit on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. In spite of all the weather issues and the fact that less than half the students had visited, the Open House on Thursday, January 30, went very well with a nice number of potential students and their parents visiting our programs.

As in the past, the staff has decided to have a Second Look Open House on February 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm for those people who did not have a chance to visit or who would like to make another visit.

This is our sixth year for on-line registration which continues to be very successful. Students are able to immediately register on-line during their visit, at the Open House or as soon as they returned home or to their schools. Currently, we have about 650 students registered which is about the same as last year even though we are recruiting from a smaller sophomore class. I cannot commend Student Services Department, our staff and students enough for their hard work and a job well done!

## **WEATHER**

The weather has certainly disrupted education this year! So far this school year, we have had six (6) two – hour delays and seven (7) snow days. We have used one (1) of our three (3) Blizzard Bags granted by the state. This drops us one hour below our required number of 1001 hours of instructional time. I have included below a chart that shows the dates of the delays and snow days:

**Pioneer Career and Technology Center Delays and Closures**  
**2014 – 2015**

<b>Date</b>	<b>2 Hour Delay</b>	<b>Closure</b>
11/17/14		5.75 hours
11/18/14	2 hours	
01/06/15		5.75 hours
01/07/15	2 hours	
01/08/15		5.75 hours
01/09/15		5.75 hours
01/12/15		5.75 hours

<b>Date</b>	<b>2 Hour Delay</b>	<b>Closure</b>
01/21/15	2 hours	
01/26/15		5.75 hours
01/30/15	2 hours	Blizzard Bag Day 0 hours
02/02/15		
02/05/15	2 hours	
02/12/15	2 hours	
TOTAL	12 hours	34.5 hours

### **LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR**

The Ohio Association for Career-Technical and Adult Education (ACTE) hosted the annual legislative seminar in Columbus on January 22 and 23, 2014. Kris Kowalski, Linda Schumacher, and I had great visits with Representative Mark Romanchuk and aides for Representative Jeff McClain, Senator Dave Burke and Senator Larry Obhof. They all were very supportive of Career Technical Education and our district. They understand the economic impact that Career and Technical Education has on the economy.

### **OSBA CENTRAL REGION MEETING**

The 2014 OSBA Central Region Spring Conference will be held Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at Villa Milano Banquet and Conference Center in Columbus.

The conference will begin with a Social Hour at 5:00 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm. and program and keynote speaker at 7:00 pm. The keynote speaker has not been announced.

### **RICHLAND COUNTY TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW**

Doug Theaker has graciously agreed to serve as Pioneer representative on the Richland County Tax Incentive Review Council. Doug has served in this capacity for us for several years.

### **CAREER TECHNICAL MONTH**

The theme for this months' National Career-Technical Month is *CTE Innovators!* Katie Stone, Job Leads Coordinator has planned several activities this month to celebrate Career – Technical Education. Activities this year will include Muffins for Moms on February 27<sup>th</sup> and Donuts for Dads from 7:30 -8:15 am in the Pioneer Arena. Parents are invited to enjoy a continental breakfast with their son/daughter then visit their students' lab and take a tour of Pioneer. There are several other activities such as, press releases, CTE Month banner on our Webpage, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts, electronic display announcement, Second Look Open House, and Job Shadow Days for our seniors.

### **PERMISSION TO REFINANCE CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION**

You might remember that Pioneer funded our renovation by selling Certificates of Participation. At this time, interest rates are at a level that would create a benefit to Pioneer should we refinance. I will be asking you to grant permission to Linda and I to

refinance our Certificates of Participation (COP) should interest rates continue to be low enough to be beneficial on the date of refinancing.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF SIGNIFICANT DONATIONS**

At the January Meeting of the Pioneer Board of Education, it was suggested that the Board should recognize donations of significant value. As a result of that discussion, I will be asking you to pass two resolutions acknowledging the donation of 2 (two) \$25,000 donations from the Gorman Family Foundation to provide scholarships and establish a revolving loan fund for our students having financial needs. Additionally, we would like to recognize a donation of carpentry equipment to our construction programs that is valued at approximately \$70,000 by Mr. John Offenburger.

### **PIONEER'S RALPH PHILLIPS' BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD DINNER**

The Ralph Phillips' Business Partner of the Year Award Dinner will be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 6:00 pm in the Pioneer Cafeteria. This award was started in 2006 to honor those business partners that have greatly contributed and supported Pioneer and our students. Our first recipient was Ralph Phillips, owner and president of Phillips Manufacturing. Each year the partner is selected based on their commitment to education; support and participation in mentoring, job shadowing, Career Technical Student Organizations, field trips and community projects; service on Pioneer committees; financial support; advancement of Pioneer levies; hiring of Pioneer students; and utilization of Pioneer training opportunities.

This year we have dual winners. We are recognizing Jim Gorman from the Gorman Family Foundation and Jeff Gorman, Brandon Hall, Scott King and David Daniels from the Gorman-Rupp Company. These gentlemen have been very supportive of Pioneer at the secondary and adult level. We will also recognize past award winners at the dinner.

### **ALL BOARD MEMBER-ADMINISTRATIVE DINNER**

Our Annual Administrator-Board Member Dinner will be held this year on Wednesday, March 25, 2014. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6:00 pm with the dinner starting at 6:30 pm in the Pioneer cafeteria.

### **PERSONNEL**

We are asking the board to approve the hiring of Mr. Jim Calhoon as the Assistant Director, High School. Mr. Calhoon has Due to the vacancy left by the appointment of Mr. Kris Kowalski to the Directors position; I am very excited to recommend that you approve the hiring of Jim Calhoon as the Assistant Director, High School. In addition to working with Mr. Calhoon for the past 8 ½ years, Mr. Kowalski and I have conducted a thorough interview and find him to be highly qualified for the position. Mr. Calhoon has been with Pioneer since 2001, serving as both our Horticulture Instructor and the Supervisor of our Construction, Transportation, and Agriculture Programs. He consistently meets or exceeds all expectations for his position and will provide outstanding leadership for our high school staff and students.

I am also asking that you approve the hiring of Mr. Lorin Weaver as an Interim Supervisor. He will assume the duties vacated by Mr. Calhoon's move to the Assistant Director's position. Mr. Weaver has many years' experience as a Career-Tech Administrator. He served in several positions, including the Executive Director's position at Wayne County Career Center in Wooster. Most recently, he spent ten (10) years as the CBI Instructor at Pioneer, retiring just a few years ago. He is very familiar with and very respected by our staff and students.

I am also asking you to accept the retirement resignation of Ms. Diana Baker. Ms. Baker has been with us for over 17 years serving in our Distribution Center. As you know, many times it's the people who work behind the scenes that make organizations run smoothly. Pioneer is no different. Diana has been a critical person in ensuring that we have the things we need to properly educate our students and, in her role as a bus driver, getting us where we need to be on time and safely.

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