



REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 20, 2015

PIONEER SPRING FORMAL

The Pioneer Spring Formal was held April 11th. The staff reported that the students looked great, had a wonderful time and were very well behaved. Ms. Lindi Lane, and the Pioneer Student Council transformed the arena into a "Masquerade" theme. As usual, it was absolutely beautiful!

I appreciate the administration and staff that helped chaperone and clean up. This is always a very special evening for our students.

HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

The projected enrollment for next year is still coming in. We currently have placed 598 new students for the 2015 – 2016 school year. These continue to be exceptional numbers. We will be welcoming our new students and parents at the Pioneer New Student/Parent Orientation on Thursday, April 23, 2015. Students and parents will have the opportunity to visit the Career Technical Labs and learn all about Pioneer and their programs.

REDUCTION IN FORCE

At the end of the month, I will be checking enrollment very closely to determine if I need to send out Reduction in Force (RIF) letters. Although things are looking very good, if needed, RIF letters will be delivered by me to the union and teachers by April 30th.

RIF's are not acted on until the June board meeting, so I will keep you posted on any reductions and possible abolishment of programs.

Student Services and instructors will continue recruitment efforts.

PIONEER ANNUAL BOARD MEMBER-ADMINISTRATOR DINNER

As usual, the Annual Board Member-Administrator Dinner was a big success. Chef Seth Weibel and the Culinary Arts students did an excellent job with their Chinese Cuisine! I appreciate the help Ms. Becky Nichols and the cafeteria staff

provided to the Culinary Arts Department. Thank you for your support of this special event!

POLICY UPDATES

After meeting with a representative from NEOLA I have a number of policy updates for your consideration. This month we will ask you to review the updated sections for approval in May. The changes are due to changes in the law so they take a little time to review before presenting them to you. We are lucky to be able to work with NEOLA to keep us abreast of all changes.

CALAMITY DAYS

After what we thought was the ultimate in bad weather during the 2013-2014 we experienced even worse winter weather this year. We had 10 closures and 7 two hour delays. We conducted 3 "Blizzard Bag" days in compliance with the Board adopted plan. However, with this year's transition from days to hours we still have to make up 8.75 student hours. We will meet this requirement by adding two full days which is actually 11.5 student hours. We will compensate our staff for the additional instructional time by releasing them early on our Staff Work Day. We are asking you to approve this make-up schedule to keep us in compliance with the Ohio Department of Education minimum hourly requirement for student instruction.

SUPPORT FOR PARTNER SCHOOL LEVIES

We have two of our partner districts who will be on the ballot in May. I would like to ask you to approve a resolution of support for the Wynford Local Schools and the Crestline Exempted Village Schools. We wish them luck on Election Day!

TEXTBOOKS

This year we have several Career-Technical textbook requests to be approved for a total of \$9,684.12. The textbooks will be displayed for your review at this meeting. All textbooks have been reviewed by Kris Kowalski, Director of Operations. It is his recommendation that the textbooks presented be approved at the May meeting by the Board of Education.

STAFF APPRECIATION

Staff appreciation week is May 4-8. I invite you to recognize the Pioneer staff through a resolution. We will recognize the teaching and support staff during this week and hope you will do the same.

AWARDS NIGHT AND RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

It is always a pleasure to recognize outstanding students at the Pioneer Student Awards night. This year this special event will be held April 30, 2015. We always appreciate your attendance and want to recognize you, so when you arrive please let me know so we can introduce you.

The Byron Carmean Award is the most prestigious award presented to a Pioneer student. This year we have six (6) candidates for the award. The approval for

recognition will be appreciated as will the \$1,000 Scholarship. The runners-up will each receive a \$250 scholarship. The Pioneer Education Association of Pioneer will also contribute a check in the amount of \$250 to the winner.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Shelby Mutual no longer wishes to serve as our school student accident insurance agent. They are recommending that we transition to Griffin Insurance. This is the same agency that took the other schools previously served by Stidham Insurance. They are offering a standard accident plan for all students attending Pioneer at a very affordable rate. Rates for this insurance has remained the same for several years.

PERSONNEL

It is with much regret that I recommend that you accept the retirement resignations of Ms. Pam Bell and Ms. Cindy Bodkin. Ms. Bell has served Pioneer as an instructor in a variety of programs for 32 years. Ms. Bell started at Pioneer in 1983 in Adult Education and later moved to the High School where she taught the Receptionist Clerk Program. The program's name changed to Information Processing Specialist and then to Office Administration and finally to Medical Office. Ms. Bell also served our students through her regular involvement in Business Professionals of America where her students won numerous awards over the years.

Ms. Bodkin has 35 years' experience in education including the last 27 here at Pioneer. She has served in our Special Needs Department as a classroom instructor where she has been a model of hard work and creative instruction as she helped her students move through the ever-changing curriculum demands in both English and Government. Of particular interest are the many celebrities she has made a part of her classroom through her hobby as the "Cookie Lady" for several race teams. She regularly brought guest speakers to into her classroom and was able to get many incentives donated for her classroom use. We wish them both a very relaxing and much deserved retirement.

Additionally I will be recommending candidates for two (2) Career Technical Supervisor's positions. We have interviewed the candidates for these positions and are finalizing our reference checks at the time this report is going out.

The employment contracts have been reviewed and found to be acceptable. The new continuing contracts have been highlighted. They have my recommendation as per master agreement

The remainder of the personnel issues are common for the month of April.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

We will move into executive session to bring you up to date on negotiations.