

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

SUPERINTENDENT ENCOURAGES STAKEHOLDERS TO JOIN HIM IN URGING LEGISLATORS TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO INVESTMENT IN BROADBAND THROUGHOUT KENTUCKY

Lee County students compete for jobs with peers nationwide. In fact, when businesses seek the best and brightest to fill employee rosters, they look across the globe, not solely in their backyard. Whether our students are able to reach their full academic potential will depend, in large part, on the technology available during their school careers. Advanced broadband technology can and will erase tradi-

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tional classroom walls and expand opportunities for all students. The challenge we face is ensuring that broadband technology is accessible to all. At this time, Lee County does not have county-wide broadband accessibility.

Students today, are comfortably at home in a digitally-connected world which baffles many adults. According to a Nielsen survey from September, more than 80% of teenagers have a cell phone and nearly two-thirds of those are smartphones. Once limited to colleges or universities, distance learning is within effective reach of all students, many of whom hold nearly unlimited educational resources literally in the palm of their hand.

Imagine a rural district, such as ours, partnering with a neighboring county to offer Advanced Placement classes that neither district could afford independently.

Imagine digital field trips to the Smithsonian for elementary students or the JROTC cadet who writes a paper on leadership after researching at the British Museum. We need county-wide broadband accessibility to afford these options to our students.

Every child deserves the opportunity to succeed and reach their potential, regardless of their ZIP code or family income. We have a duty to give them that chance. Kentucky's laws should encourage investment in the wireless and wired networks that are needed to deliver advanced broadband services throughout the Commonwealth. I urge the members of the Kentucky Legislature to remove barriers to investment in broadband. Many of our communication laws were drafted decades ago and are not in line with today's technology.

We have a duty to Kentucky not to squander her most precious resource: her children. I encourage each of you as Lee County stakeholders, whether as students, parents, community, or business leaders, to join me in urging our Legislators to remove these barriers to investment in broadband throughout Kentucky. Our students deserve access to technology that will help enable them to reach their full academic potential.

SCHOOL BOARD REVIEWS DISTRICT CRISIS MANUAL

At the regular Lee County Board of Education meeting held February 12, 2013 in the Lee County Middle School Library, members of the board recognized Blake Coomer and Mollie Johnson for their advancement to state academic competition. Both Blake and Mollie will represent Lee County Middle School in Language Arts Written Assessment.

Mr. Dwight Salisbury of Ross Sinclair Associates, the district's fiscal agent, presented a draft refunding summary report which included possible uniform savings resulting from the refinancing of Bond Series 2003 originally issued on April 1, 2003. The Lee County Board of Education approved a resolution to initiate the refinancing process in order to refund and retire all of the outstanding Lee County School District Finance Corporation School Building Revenue Bonds originally issued to finance the projects; authorizing and approving the execution of a lease agreement with the Lee County School District Finance Corporation and any further necessary instruments; and approving the plan of refinancing of said projects generally. After approving the resolution for refinancing, the board of education recessed and entered into a meeting of the Lee County School District Finance Corporation. The Lee County School District Finance Corporation voted unanimously to approve the resolution entering into the Contract, Lease and Option with the Board of Education to approve advertisement and sale of the bonds to obtain the uniform savings afforded by a lower interest rate. The finance corporation meeting then adjourned and the Lee County Board of Education reconvened.

Next, Myron Thompson of the Kentucky School Boards Insurance Trust (KSBIT) updated board members on the assessments that would be levied to participating school districts to cover KSBIT's 60 million dollar deficit. All 174 school districts who participated in the self-insurance fund will be required by law to pay unfunded losses for specific years of participation. As a past and current member of the KSBIT Workers' Compensation and Liability Pools, Lee County Schools will be required to pay approximately

\$290,000.00 in assessments. The district has the option of paying in one lump sum or financing for 20 years at 3-4% interest rate. Superintendent Evans stated that this was a devastating blow for the district. Due to financial hardships, KSBIT will no longer be available to provide insurance for school districts. As of July 1, 2013, former KSBIT school districts will be required to purchase insurance elsewhere in addition to covering the assessment payments.

Superintendent Evans informed those present that Lee County School District is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan. The planning process will include three (3) two hour meetings involving students, parents, educators, and community stakeholders. The first of these meetings has been scheduled for February 28th at 6:00 p.m. in the Lee County Board of Education Central Office at 242 Lee Avenue. The meeting will be open to the public and all interested stakeholders are welcome to attend. A School Messenger notification will be sent to parents.

Karen Angel, Lee County Middle principal, along with members of the site based council and staff, presented instructional initiatives and programs currently being implemented at the school. Individual staff members discussed specific classroom activities and modules developed through the Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC). Superintendent Evans commended Ms. Angel and the middle school staff on the great work they are doing for the kids.

Following the middle school presentation, Sharon Bush, Instructional Supervisor, presented the board with current Comprehensive District and School Improvement Plans for review and approval. Glenna Cummins, District Assessment Coordinator, shared trend data for both the Explore and Plan Tests. Each school principal provided in-depth reports on 30.60.90 day instructional planning, as well as current assessment and attendance data at each school.

Ray Shuler, Director of Pupil Personnel, provided the board with both calendar and attendance updates. Currently, Lee County has missed 4 instructional days due to inclement weather or

illness. Attendance is holding just above 92%. Shuler also discussed the status of the District Facility Plan (DFP). The Local Planning Committee will hold a Public Forum to solicit public input on the DFP at 6:00 p.m., February 18th in the Beatyville Elementary Library.

Superintendent Evans addressed issues concerning recent crisis concerns in the district with specific detail on steps taken to ensure the safety of all students and staff. Glenna Cummins and Ray Shuler presented the updated Crisis Manual for Board review. Evans thanked Ms. Cummins and Mr. Shuler for their hard work. Board members were also given a review of district safety procedures and plans to add front door security locks at both Lee County Middle and Lee County High School. Superintendent Evans emphasized the importance of all staff following guidelines set forth by the Board of Education and the Kentucky Center for School Safety each day. He also expressed his confidence in the members of the board and all staff in the district in doing the right thing. He then thanked parents for coming and sharing information and providing ideas on ways to improve our system. Superintendent Evans ended by saying, "If at any time you have questions, concerns, suggestions feel free to call, or stop by. We can all work together for what's best for our district and kids."

Zina Gibson, District Finance Director, gave a budget report for both the district and school activity accounts. Gibson provided the board with both projected expenditures and revenue. She also discussed the impact of the loss of \$290,000.00 in assessments to KSBIT. Superintendent Evans presented the March 1st, Site Based Allocations to the Board for review and approval. Evans stated that the allocations were at the minimum and would be adjusted by May 1st.

In other business the board approved bus and building applications, fund raiser requests and paid bills and claims. Superintendent Evans commended the board and all staff members for their work and dedication to the kids. Upon motion, the Board adjourned.

March 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | <i>School Dismissed For Students</i> | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

2013-2014 Kindergarten Registration Scheduled

The 2013-2014 Kindergarten Registration will be held in the Lee County High School Gymnasium on March 15, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. In order to plan for the upcoming school year, the Lee County Board of Education asks for your help in identifying students who will be attending the Lee County Schools' Kindergarten Program during the 2013-2014 school year.

To be eligible, a child must be five (5) years of age by October 1, 2013. All children must successfully complete kindergarten prior to enrolling in the first grade. If you have a child or know of a child who will be attending kindergarten during the 2013-2014 school year, please notify Susan Pettit at the Lee County School District Central Office (606) 464-5000 ext. 100. A packet containing additional enrollment forms will then be sent to you.

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