



Board Report
March 2016
Duane Krusemark, Elementary Principal

Title I Review Update: As mentioned last month, we had our review with the Nebraska Department of Education on February 18th in the boardroom with Mrs. Polonic, Title I teachers and myself. The review went very well except for a few updates due to changes in their criteria or policies. On a couple of our forms, we simply need to update or add some verbiage to match their policies. We will update these forms and send it in to the state to assure we have implemented the necessary changes on our forms.

There were a few changes needed in our school board policies to help clear up a few things or to help simplify in the future. Mrs. Polonic will be bringing those changes to you for approval in one of the next board meetings.

Interviews: In anticipation of a resignation from one of our teachers, we advertised earlier in March and interviewed candidates on March 25th and 26th. We had a great pool again this year as we looked for the right fit for a second grade position.

Jacob Subbert is our top candidate and we are asking for your approval once the resignation has been approved. Mr. Subbert is from Wahoo and went to Morningside College earning endorsements in both elementary education and special education. He is a 2015 December graduate who is eager to come on board at DC West.

Kindergarten Round Up: We will keep you posted on the expected number of kindergarten students for next year. Currently we have 57 on our list. I am guessing either way that this may be a late hire depending on the numbers this year.



Reading classes offered: With the strong interest by some of the elementary teachers, we have started a series of 5 classes after school to learn more about Guided Reading. Darcy Heath, our instructional coach from Buffett, will be leading the class of 13 of our teachers to learn how to implement a new reading strategy called Guided Reading. This is not necessarily a brand new strategy to education, but more for DC West, since we have Darcy as a leader in this area. The first class was well received by the group of teachers on March 1st. All of the training is provided by the funding we receive from the Buffett grant.

Baseline Data: Part of the requirements of being selected to be one of the sites for the Buffett/Superintendent's Plan is to collect baseline data from both the students and the staff. This year we will administer a few tests from a random sampling of our PK and Kindergarten students. It is all part of a larger study in which we will follow these students and their progress through elementary school. Next year we will be collecting data in PK through first grade.

The second part of the study also is to look at how teachers are instructing and give them feedback from an instructional coach. I will not receive any scores from the data since this is not part of their evaluation. The data is intended to be a learning tool for the teachers to learn from and implement improved instruction. Darcy Heath will be the person who will video an hour of the teacher's instructional day, send it off to be scored by an outside agency, and then meet with the staff to discuss and give feedback.

Music Interviews: With the resignation of Mrs. Everson, our K-12 music teacher, we have set interviews for March 14th. We may have good news to share by the time of the board meeting and anticipate bringing a name to you in April for your approval.

NeSA Reading Testing: The third grade will be administering the NeSA reading test on March 30th and 31st with the fourth grade on April 5th and 6th.