

Peru Central

Cross-Campus Web-based Update

HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD ACTION THIS MONTH

At the regular monthly meeting of **Tuesday, November 10, 2009** the Board of Education:

Received the November 2009 student president reports on extra-curricular activities, leadership development and service from the Presidents of the middle school and high school student councils.

Offered public recognition to the nurse teams, teachers, school-based support staff, transportation services staff, administrators and operations supervisors for providing exemplary public service the week of October 26th, by providing a full day of school for the children of the community who were healthy and ready for a day of school, each day when the situation allowed Peru CSD to have a day of school.

Welcomed and **commended** gymnastics team members for emphasizing community service this semester, rather than fund raising. The team recently partnered with the American Cancer Society.

Approved the October 2009 recommendations from the finance committee [attached to this summary report] and commissioned the school district to move forward with those recommendations.

Authorized Peru CSD to move ahead with the proposed order for updated policy manuals from the NYSSBA.

Scheduled for fall 2010 the general insurance bid process, thereby reserving winter and spring 2010 staff resources and time for the upcoming bid and construction phases of the voter-approved EXCEL capital project, and what is forecasted to be a formidable budget development season ahead.

Authorized the school district to engage with this region's BOCES to participate in the upcoming regional digital fingerprinting cooperative service, associated with implementing new state guidelines from the SED Office of School Personnel Review & Accountability.

Authorized the school district to pay the annual dues for membership with the NYSSBA.

Received a report from the Board's president, who represented the Board at the NYSSBA convention.

Launched a conversation slated for December 2009 action, regarding spring/summer 2010 EXCEL capital project administration protocols engaging the architectural firm, the Superintendent, business office, finance committee, construction committee and the entire Board. The Board decided that it will consider putting into place at the December 2009 regular monthly meeting a set of EXCEL project administration protocols similar to the protocols it set forth for the year 2002 voter-approved capital project.

Discussed the likelihood of substantial limits to after-hours campus use during the spring/summer construction phase of the EXCEL project.

Examined the November 2009 Superintendent's Report, which is attached to this summary report.

NOVEMBER 12, 2009

FROM A. PAUL SCOTT, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Peru Central School District

Recommendations from the Finance Committee

SLATED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION NOVEMBER 10, 2009

1. Administration should move ahead on the practical, precautionary cost reduction measures outlined within the October 20th cross-campus update [a copy of that document is attached].
2. Move ahead with establishing district goals and forecasted budget factors for 2010-2011.
3. Delay further updates to the school district's multi-year finance plan until after the Governor and Legislature take action regarding 2009-2010 school year state aid funding, and until a clearer picture emerges regarding 2010-2011 school year state aid funding.
4. Administration and the Board should continue monitoring statewide budget developments.

On behalf of the finance committee, thank you!



A. Paul Scott, Superintendent of Schools

Peru Central

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GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL CALLS FOR \$670,420 CUT TO PERU CSD

Governor Paterson released his \$5B deficit reduction plan proposal last week. The statewide impact is reported to be a 4.5% statewide cut in general school aid. The proposal must be approved by the Assembly and Senate in order for the proposal to move forward. I anticipate spirited debate in Albany between the Executive and the Legislative regarding the Governor's proposal. The preliminary state aid 'run' from the State Education Department indicates a **\$670,420 cut** in current school year aid payments to Peru CSD, as a result of that proposal.

Public school districts do not have the option of serving fewer constituents, dropping State mandates, or reducing the length of the school year. As to spending, the largest portion of our annual expenditures is personnel.ⁱ

A mid-year state cut has ramifications not only for this school year but for future school years as well. Therefore, in the weeks ahead, administration and the school board will be evaluating the prospective multi-year impact of a \$670,420 mid-year cut in revenues. Meanwhile, Peru CSD will:

- Provide a briefing this week to the presidents of Peru CSD collective bargaining units;
- Consider prospective strategies for reducing expenditures this school year;
- Determine if any vacant position can be left unfilled, at least for a period of time;
- Examine patterns and practices associated with use of paper, photocopiers and printers;
- Identify prospective 'next steps' to expand energy conservation practices across campus.

As Peru CSD learns more about the likely result of the Governor's proposal, additional information will be provided in a subsequent cross-campus update and/or on the school district's Web site.

ⁱ The Faculty members who instruct and counsel our students are the largest category of employee at Peru CSD. CSEA unit support staff members who provide transportation, cafeteria, clerical, custodial, grounds, monitoring, campus maintenance and school office services are our second largest category of employee.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2009


FROM A. PAUL SCOTT, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY REPORT FEATURES AN UPDATE ON PERU CSD BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The just-published edition of the Peru CSD Community Report features the expanded set of seats on the Budget Advisory Committee [BAC]. The BAC formulates specific recommendations for Board and administrative consideration and assists the Board and administration through respectful, collaborative discussion. At the June 2009 regular monthly meeting, the Board revised and updated the BAC structure and timetable.

The BAC will feature two seats for each of these four towns: AuSable, Peru, Plattsburgh and Schuyler Falls. A brief application form is provided within the Community Report, for citizens who have interest in being appointed to one of the non-employee 'seats' on the BAC.

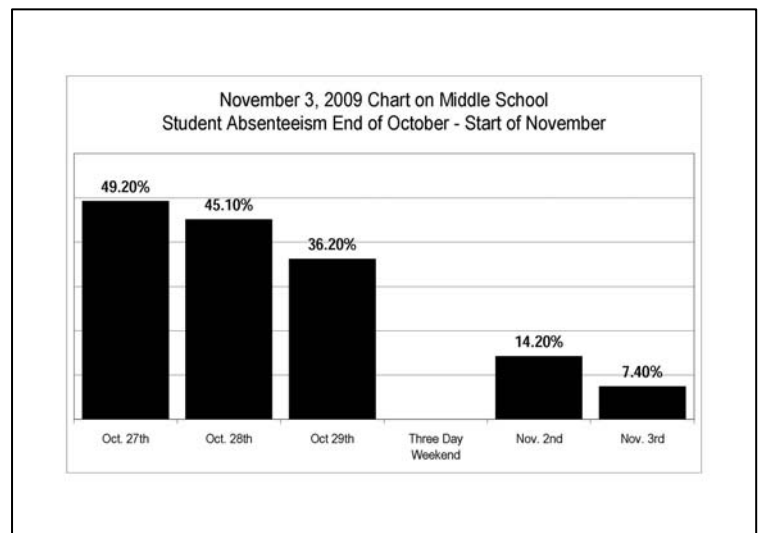
Also included on the BAC are two seats each for: faculty members; support staff members; support operations supervisors and administrators.

Public forums will be featured at the January, February and March monthly BAC meetings. Each public forum will offer fact-based briefings, concurrent small group sessions and brief exit surveys to gather perceptions from all who attend the public forum, thereby providing the BAC with ideas, comments and survey results from those who attend.

INFLUENZA-TYPE ILLNESS IMPACTED PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS LAST MONTH

Overall student absenteeism rates were closer to normal at the start of November, following an unprecedented number of students absent during the last week of October, particularly in the middle school and the high school. Based on extensive assessment of the school district's capacity to transport, supervise and instruct students, all programs and operations at Peru Central were cancelled for Friday, October 30th.

Although student absenteeism at the middle school and at the high school had improved the two days prior, illness among faculty and support staff had spread. Print and broadcast media reported extensively on increased levels of influenza-type illness reported within Clinton County and our region of the North Country that week. Peru CSD had been – and continues - tracking staff absenteeism daily, as part of county-wide monitoring.



Special thanks to the nurse teams, the teachers, school-based support staff, bus drivers, administrators and operations supervisors for providing exemplary public service that week. Clinton County Health Department and various other organizations and agencies provided assistance to Peru CSD throughout that time.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AN ONGOING FOCUS AT PERU CSD FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

Throughout the past decade, Peru CSD has advanced information technology access and use for the students we serve, and for the teachers who instruct those students. The school board approved the 2009-2012

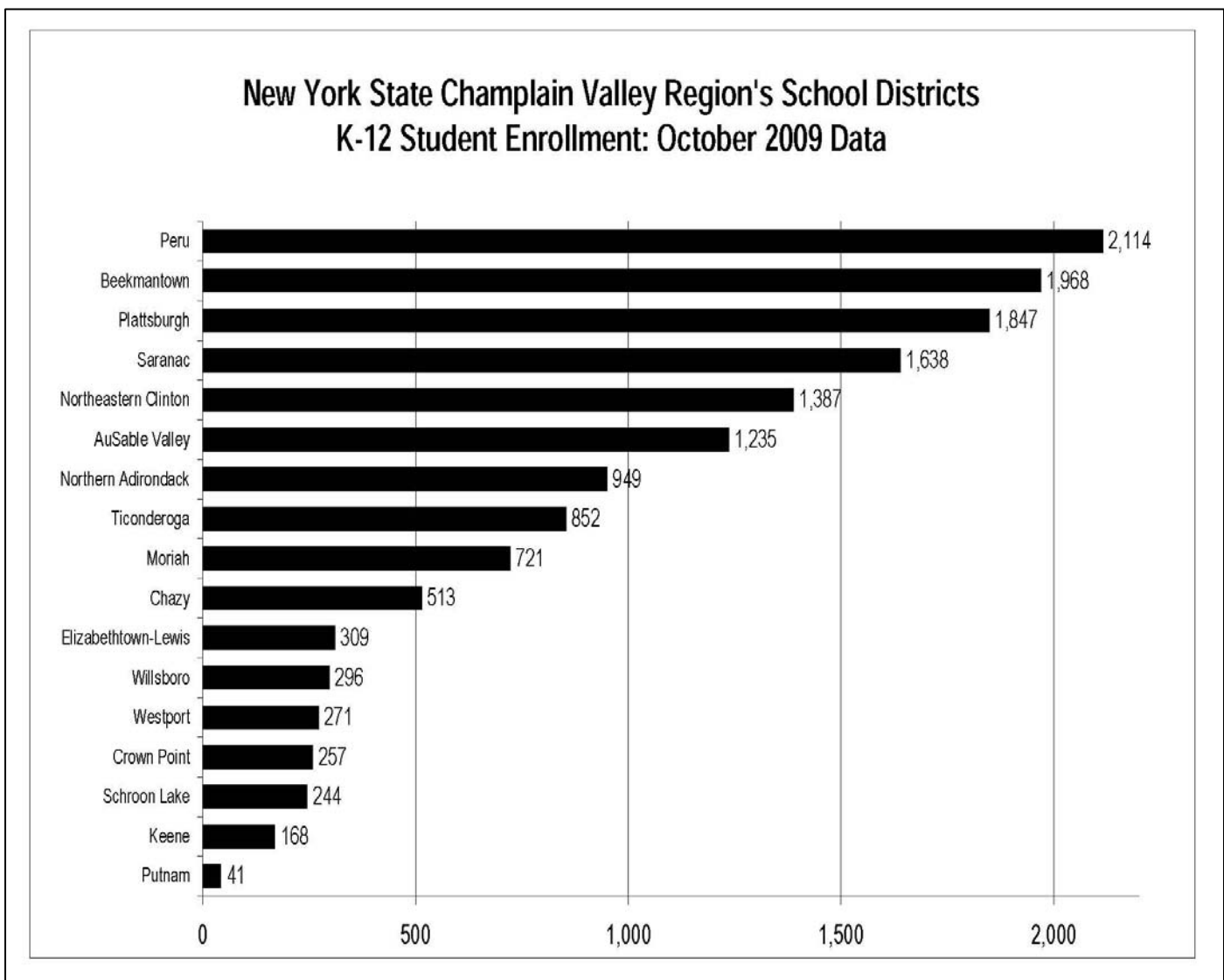
Information Technology Plan on April 21, 2009. Peru CSD faculty and staff were provided with an expanded summer professional development academy featuring various information technology network workshops.

Later this month, members of our recent ad-hoc task force on information technology planning will join me on a strictly voluntary basis for a fall semester roundtable discussion and forum. Feedback from the roundtable discussion and forum will be instrumental in formulating strategies to address emerging top priorities for the remainder of this school year and next summer.

Meanwhile, the State is in the process of revamping statewide goals for information technology. Peru CSD will use the resulting statewide vision and goals to help us continue putting to 'best use' the information technology resources and tools the school district can make available to students and staff across campus.

If the Board has interest, we could schedule a winter or spring 2010 exhibition of information technology student projects and activities, to provide solid examples of what our students and teachers are accomplishing and striving for with information technology this school year.

ANNUAL SNAPSHOT ON CHAMPLAIN VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT ENROLLMENT



Peru CSD continues to be the largest public school district on the New York State side of the Champlain Valley, based on student enrollment data from this region's school districts, submitted to the NYSED last month. The Peru CSD share of total Champlain Valley student enrollment is 14.3%. One year ago, our share was 14.2%. Nearly every school district in this region dropped in student enrollment compared with one year ago, Peru CSD included.

If by attrition or otherwise, the eight smallest school districts consolidated their governance structures, central office and various administrative 'back office' operations, student enrollment in that resulting consolidated enterprise would still fall short of Peru CSD student enrollment this school year.

PROSPECT FOR CHAMPLAIN VALLEY CONSOLIDATION OF GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Eleven of the seventeen school districts in our BOCES region enroll less than 1,000 students, the recommended threshold for consolidation that was identified in the December 1, 2008 final report from the New York State Commission on Property Tax Relief. Other states are examining consolidation of small school districts. If New York State pursues such a round of consolidation, the North Country might be among those regions where consolidation of various governance and administrative functions will be closely examined.

THREE-PART REPLY TO SENATOR LITTLE'S QUESTION REGARDING MANDATE RELIEF

Last month, State Senator Little asked me to offer her three achievable, practical mandate relief proposals which could be pursued this session of the Legislature. I offered her these three suggestions:

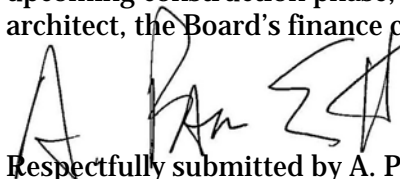
1. Consider having State Government stop adding more mandates.
2. Engage suitable parties to scale back special education mandates, structures and reporting to the levels set by federal government. Currently, our state places many additional mandates on top of all those federal mandates.
3. Promote statewide consolidation of administrative operations either via BOCES or via direct district-to-district partnering. Such a process could take advantage of attrition and retirement among staff and administrators in the years ahead.

EXCEL STANDS FOR EXPANDING CHILDREN'S EDUCATION AND LEARNING AID

Most of the Empire State's public school buildings – Peru Central included – were constructed forty, fifty or more years ago. As a result, the state requires school districts identify and report priorities for school building renovations, repairs and modernization every five years. The upcoming EXCEL Capital Project, approved by voters March 12, 2008, uses State EXCEL Aid, State building aid and capital project reserve funds already in place.

A multi-page document highlighting various aspects of the project scope is inside the Board's agenda packet. A PDF copy of that document was emailed across campus last month, as a refresher for employees.

Tonight's agenda features a follow-up conversation associated with the roles and relationships during the upcoming construction phase, engaging the Board, district office, business office, construction managers, architect, the Board's finance committee and the Board's construction committee.



Respectfully submitted by A. Paul Scott, Superintendent of Schools