

Peru Central

Cross-Campus Web-based Update

HIGHLIGHTS OF SCHOOL BOARD ACTION TUESDAY NIGHT

At the regular monthly meeting of **Tuesday, May 12, 2009** the Board of Education:

- A. Welcomed Middle School Student Council President Madeline Barber, who presented this month's report on extra-curricular student activities, leadership development and service. Diane Menard and Tracy Posada are club advisors.
- B. Recognized Middle School student Nicole Fisher, who represented Peru CSD at the Junior Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference sponsored by the National Youth Scholars Program. Nicole attended the inauguration for President Obama, and other events associated with the presidential inauguration.
- C. Congratulated Middle School students who represented Peru CSD in the 2009 All-County Mixed Chorus: Aria Garrow, Maria Remillard, Andrew Caswell, Leagon Carlin, and Carah Powell, along with Middle School students who represented Peru CSD in the 2009 NYSSMA Solo Adjudication Festival: Carah Powell, Breanna Estrada, Lindsey Neenan, Allison St. Louis, and Michaela Webb.
- D. Commended the Grade 6 Chorus, which performed for state legislators at the State Capitol, in association with Music in Our Schools Month recognition.
- E. Expressed appreciation to the many Peru CSD faculty members, teacher team coordinators, school nurses and nursing office staff, support staff members, custodial team members, administrators, operations supervisors and collective bargaining unit presidents who gathered promptly and productively with the district office to launch the operational planning phase for prospective activation of our pandemic flu protocols. Such action was on 'front burner' for a period of time last week when public school districts were 'called to service' early May 2009 to diligently monitor student and staff health, and prepare for what was originally forecasted as prospective extensive set of public school closures associated with the early days of the novel H1N1 flu outbreak in the United States.

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FROM A. PAUL SCOTT, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

- F. Provided a public hearing on the proposed expenditures plan for next school year, at which time the Board responded to questions regarding that proposed expenditures plan.
- G. Accepted the annual public accountability report on use of early dismissal days, annual curriculum audit report, and the annual single-sheet summary report on the NYSED school report card on Peru CSD, and accepted the annual spring summary report on progress toward district goals.
- H. Authorized the Superintendent of Schools to move ahead with his proposed guidance to administrators regarding various customary May and June longer distance field trips.
- I. Established a Science National Honor Society at Peru CSD, in similar fashion to the National Art Honor Society at Peru CSD, as a progressive step to bolster and recognize exemplary student achievement and success in the sciences.
- J. Adopted the proposed resolution of May 12, 2009 regarding Reserve and National Guard on Active Duty Military Service in Support of a Contingency Operation.
- K. Reserved the June 12, 2009 regular monthly meeting for a second reading & adoption of the revised 5000 section of the policy manual and the revised 6000 section of the policy manual, as follow-up to the April 2009 regular monthly meeting.
- L. Granted tenure appointments to Assistant Principal Fred Schaefer and to faculty members Laurie Bell, Tiffany Berry, Jason Brown, Michael Castine, Erika Converse, Nicholas Damiani, Cindi LaFountain, Melissa LeClair, Kelly LaFranca, Jayne Moore, Julie Parada, Jamie Rusnak and Sharlyn Wells.
- M. Selected candidate David Hall for the Board's designated vote in the BOCES run-off election between candidates Bryan Garvey and David Hall for the vacant seat on this region's BOCES.
- N. Approved the request from the Plattsburgh Breakfast Club Kiwanis to place a banner advertising their Dozer Day event on the fence off Route 22B.

A copy of the May 12, 2009 Superintendent's Report is attached.

MAY 13, 2009


FROM A. PAUL SCOTT, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

ANNUAL VOTE AND ELECTION MAY 19, 2009

The annual vote and election associated with the Board's proposed expenditures plan is slated for one week from today, noon until 9 PM in the high school gymnasium. A feature article published in the May 7, 2009 edition of the Press-Republican reported on the Board's extensive efforts since last fall and throughout the winter and spring, limiting increases to areas where increases were essential.

EXTENDING PARTNERSHIP WITH BOCES FOR ANNUAL DISTRICT CALENDAR

Peru CSD strives to be efficient – and effective – with publication and duplication of important annual documents, such as the annual budget edition of the Community Report, and the annual multi-page district calendar. As of summer 2009, Peru CSD will extend our partnership with the BOCES to include the desktop publishing component of calendar construction. Currently, Peru CSD calendar 'point person' Barb Digman assembles the K-12 set of event dates and constructs a 'master copy' of the multi-page calendar. Beginning this summer, the BOCES publishing center will take the assembled K-12 set of event dates from our 'point person', desktop publish a draft calendar for administrators, school secretaries, our 'point person' and the district office to examine, prior to district office authorization to sending the district calendar to the BOCES print room for duplication.

Such an extension of our long-standing partnership with the BOCES is BOCES-aided, and consistent with what many other rural school districts have done in recent years: Partnering as much as practical with the BOCES. Doing so helps calendar construction be as efficient and cost-effective as can be. Engaging BOCES for the desktop publishing segment allows Peru CSD to focus on checking for accuracy of dates, rather than calendar design and publishing.

CONTINUITY OF LEARNING: STATUS REPORT & OPERATIONAL PLANNING

Federal planning checklists for K-12 school districts associated with pandemic flu situations call for 'continuity of student learning and core operations'. Such aspects of planning for adversity are already part of Peru CSD plan documents. The 'operational planning' stage of planning for a pandemic flu situation was launched last week, engaging administrators and teacher team coordinators. A guidance document on that matter was published and distributed May 7, 2009. Emphasis at Peru CSD on such planning is to emphasize a conservative, simple approach regarding materials and strategies.

Last week, I thanked our teacher team coordinators and our administrators for their time and collective focus at that point, when we faced the prospect of imminent and extensive precautionary closures of school districts nationwide and statewide.

Administrators and teacher team coordinators engaged with the district office in the launch of operational planning, to prepare for some level of continuity of learning and instruction in the event of an extended school closure, particularly in the context of a pandemic flu situation.

On May 5th, the CDC updated its guidance in regard to school closures. The updated guidance regarding human infections with the novel influenza A [H1N1] virus placed prime emphasis on early identification of ill students and staff, staying home when ill, and good cough and hand hygiene etiquette. Previously, the primary emphasis was early consideration of school closure, as a precautionary measure.

New information on disease severity and extent of community spread of the H1N1 virus was viewed by the CDC as warranting revision of the initial guidance associated with school closures.

ADDED EMPHASIS ON IMPORTANCE OF CUSTODIAL CLEANING FUNCTION

Also associated with operational planning and implementation has been added emphasis and additional training sessions for the custodial services teams. Earlier this month, custodial teams gathered and received guidance on [to borrow a CSEA phrase] **'doing the essential work right'**, as part of precautionary measures and ongoing professional development.

Heightened focus on custodial team practices included topics such as general cleaning, disinfection, horizontal surfaces, cleaning of frequently used areas and objects such as door knobs, push plates, sinks, faucets and light switches. Details regarding hand washing were presented.

Actions associated with maintenance include examining the operation of automatic sink faucets and roof top exhaust units. Additional custodial and rest room supplies have been ordered to be 'at the ready', and additional cafeteria hand cleaner dispensers have been ordered, along with extra towels and specific supplies to have on hand in the event of a pandemic flu situation.

In the days and weeks ahead, Peru CSD custodial team supervisors will be placing additional time and focus on individual and team-based efforts at each grade span. Supervisors will help the custodial teams focus attention on key details such as checking soap dispensers and hand gel dispensers during each evening shift to ensure full dispensers are 'at the ready' each day.

AWAITING DETAILS FROM ALBANY ON USE OF STIMULUS MONIES

Peru CSD, like many public school districts, is awaiting details from Albany regarding permissible expenditures and timetables associated with Title I [compensatory education for disadvantaged students] and IDEA [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act] monies slated to be available to school districts via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

An April 22, 2009 memorandum from the NYSED outlined types of allowable expenditures. That note stated applications will be forthcoming, and will include guidance regarding specific requirements for Title I and IDEA programs.

STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT EXAMINING POLICIES AND TIMETABLES

Ongoing areas of focus for the State Education Department include consideration of an extended-year graduation rate report.

Such a report would better reflect that some students require or take more time than four years to earn their diploma, yet those students are not 'credited' with earning a diploma on state reports, since state reports generally focus exclusively on the number and percent of students who graduated with their student 'cohort' at the end of four years.

The statewide data indicate measurable gain, and in many cases, substantial gain in graduation statistics when including students who required or took additional time to complete their high school diploma requirements.

Meanwhile, the State Education Department is considering several options regarding grades 3-8 annual accountability tests. Those state tests are intended to evaluate the implementation of state standards at the student, school, district and statewide basis. ELA and mathematics are the focus of these tests.

Options being considered include:

- Administer ELA and math concurrently during the first week of May and score the tests during the second week of May;
- Sustain the early March math tests and move the ELA tests from January to late March or early April; and
- Retain the current testing calendar.

It's expected the SED will survey teachers and administrators again to gather additional input, then make a decision in time to construct the 2010-2011 school year grades 3-8 test schedule.

Should the Board of Regents establish a policy on 'making up' course credit after a student has failed a course, and should the Board of Regents establish a policy on 'independent study' to allow students to pursue a subject in greater depth? The state education department is expected to release a draft document to schools and stakeholder groups regarding those two questions, and then craft a proposal reflecting feedback the state education department receives on those topics.

TITLE IX OFFICER TRAINING FOR THE REGION'S SCHOOL DISTRICTS

As part of transition planning associated with the upcoming retirement of Peru CSD Principal and Title IX Officer Chris Angevine, Principals Cheryl Felt and Scott Storms will be attending a June 2009 regional training session for Title IX Officers. Those two Principals will serve as our Title IX officers for 2009-2010.

ANNUAL SECTION 100.11 SHARED DECISION MAKING TEAM REPORTS DUE JUNE 2ND

The annual snapshot report from each grade span's state-mandated shared decision making team is due at the district office by noon on June 2, 2009. Those reports spotlight 'top' issues, measurable increases in student achievement or success, and any helpful initiatives at that school put into place through the good work of the teachers, parents, administrators, support staff and students who comprise their school's building-level shared decision making team.

MAY 19, 2009 VOTE AND ELECTION

The annual vote and election is slated for noon until 9 PM in the high school gymnasium. The annual budget edition of the Peru CSD **Community Report** is slated for duplication and mailing to residents early May 2009.



Respectfully submitted by A. Paul Scott, Superintendent of Schools