Superintendent Leonard Whalen: Board Report for April 21, 2014

Items of focus/discussion since our March 17, 2014 Board Meeting:

\*March 20 & 21st: I attended the mandatory new Superintendent training incorporated with the Finance and Operations Institute in Lexington. It was an effective learning experience and we discussed at the end how each of us was going to present our “Capstone” culminating presentation to our Board. Some new Superintendents are having special working sessions with their Board to do their Capstone project. We’ll need to decide if we might like to do this as well in June or July possibly.

\*March 25th: I had breakfast with 32 seniors here at the board office. I asked seniors what they believed we were doing well and what they believed we needed to work on.

These are things seniors felt “good” about:

-curriculum

-school lunches

-dual credit and AP courses (would like more also)

-student led conferences as presented the evening prior to meeting (super job HS staff)

-student voice surveys

Things seniors felt we needed to work on:

-Student council needs to be more active (I plan to have breakfast with them bi-monthly next year and will ask the school administration to meet with them on the months I do not).

-Improve community ties (A start to this is our Spruce up Dawson Springs Project, many more to come)

-Find ways for students to attend athletic events as they believe the $3 gate fee is expensive. (I am open to further discussions for solutions)

-Find ways to further positive student and teacher relationships. (I am open to further discussions for solutions)

\*March 27th: Attended Middle School “Real World” Day and watched as our students tried to budget how they would live based on their income. I think many students saw first hand how important an education is when it comes to the difference in salary. It was very impressive and very “real world.”

\*March 28th: Attended teacher recruiting fair at WKU in Bowling Green

-Older Lockers refurbished by MK Locker Service over spring break.

\*April 8th: Met with Sam Haulk in Princeton regarding regional plant manager meetings and trainings. We are going to get more active with their group related to maintenance and custodial workshops and trainings.

\*April 9th: Met with Dennis Bledsoe with the West KY Educational Co-op (WKEC) regarding ongoing implementation of the new Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES).

\*April 10th: Regular bi-weekly principal meeting.

\*April 11th: Attended teacher recruiting fair in Murray

\*April 15th: I had breakfast with 24 student council and other student leaders here at the board office. I asked these primarily underclassmen student leaders what they believed we were doing well and what they believed we needed to work on.

These are things these student leaders felt “good” about:

-Our “rules” continue to get more modern

-Potential offering of more activities like bass fishing, archery, and volleyball

-They liked the student led conferences

-They like the drug prevention team

-They believe our academics are solid

-They like the success of our cross country team, believe golf is improving

-They enjoy the administration showing more interaction (they had never met with the superintendent)

These are some things these leaders felt we need to work on:

-We need more advanced courses like chemistry and physics along with more dual credit and AP courses (I spoke with Principal Stockman about distance learning and other potential options where we could utilize technology).

-More athletic and band opportunities with better funding.

-Work to improve school and community relations (this is where the “Spruce Up Dawson Springs” project discussion began and really took off, I believe this may turn into a mega-project in the coming years as we plan and refine).

\*April 15th: Signed re-funding of Bonds with Board Chair Menser and Finance Director Jenny Bruce as approved at last Board Meeting. This re-funding will save the district approximately $280,000 over the life of the bond.

\*April 18th: Held regular bi-weekly meeting with all district administrators and directors.