Superintendent Leonard Whalen: Board Report for August 18th, 2014

Items of involvement since our July 21st, 2014 Board Meeting:

July 23rd: Attended the Tradewater River Project Meeting with other local officials at the Dawson Springs Library where expansion of the Tradewater River as thoroughfare for recreation and boaters was discussed. The intention is to attempt to bring more people into and through Dawson Springs by using this as a recreational resource.

July 24th: Attended the KY Association of Plant Managers Workshop with Joe Loney at KY Dam Village. We learned and discussed a lot regarding building maintenance and discussed similar HVAC problems with other school maintenance managers. I intend to have Joe be more involved with this group, they discuss a lot of current problems and issues many of us face and they often are in tune with current procedures that help fix some of the problems we face. This group is a tremendous resource.

July 24th: Stopped in evening and spoke with bus drivers as they worked on their annual required bus driver update training.

July 25th: Attended the City BBQ with my family. I am going to try to get even more school groups to participate next year as a fundraiser for their particular team or club. This is a tremendous community event we need to try to get all our programs to be more a part of and benefit from. There is a lot of opportunity here for promotion of our schools.

July 28th: Our full administrative team met including school administrators, food service director, transportation, maintenance, custodial, etc. and we discussed final preparations and needs for school starting.

July 31st: We held our “Back to School Bash” which was a tremendous success. We had several students and parents come out. Many of those I spoke with were very excited about school starting back up (especially the parents).

July 30th and 31st: Met individually with board members to discuss various items and preparations for the upcoming school year.

July 31st: Met with Matt Johnson with Green River Paving (GRP), Sealing, and Striping regarding quotes to seal and stripe our various parking lots and drives. Matt quoted me $5000 to crack fill, seal, and stripe the “Band” parking lot. I am awaiting bids from another company out of Bowling Green but they have not heard back as of 8/12. In my research, GRP is a very reputable company and is highly regarded by the Superintendent out of McClean County. The price also seems to be very much in line with a lot the size we’re looking at. As we finalize budget I hope we can possibly do some sealing and striping which we desperately need to maintain our parking areas and drives. I anticipate it would cost us $16,000+/- to seal and stripe our entire campus as needed including the “band” lot.

August 6th, 7th and Opening Day on the 8th: I had the opportunity to be in and around professional development the 6th and 7th which we had happening in both the Elementary School and High School. I addressed the faculty briefly on the 6th and let them know I believed we were going to have a great year and gave every one of them my personal cell phone number and encouraged them to call me if they had a question or concern which they felt like rose to the level that they should contact me. On the 8th  we had Opening Day start with the PTO supplying breakfast for everyone. I addressed all in attendance and told them again I thought we had great year in store and again gave every one of them my personal cell phone number and encouraged them to call me if they had a question or concern which they felt like rose to the level that they should contact me. I think all three days went extremely well.

August 11th: We had the smoothest 1st day of school I have been involved with in all my years in education. Students and staff alike were enthusiastic and everything went super.

August 12th: Attended the Dawson Springs Chamber of Commerce Meeting.