Superintendent Leonard Whalen: Board Report for October 11, 2017

Items of involvement (not all-inclusive) since our September 14, 2017 Board Meeting:

Things in our schools continue to roll very smoothly. Our KPREP assessment results have been released publically and we “have a mixed bag” of results. Due to the accountability system changing we no longer have a school level or district level rating. Our high school scored very well once again and our middle school was somewhat “middle of the road” with a lot of work left to do. Our elementary struggled quite a bit and we’re working diligently to pinpoint areas of focus for improvement in all areas where we didn’t do as well as we’d hoped.

As I have shared with the Board and also our staff, the last month or so has been very tough on our current and future budget…not through anything we’ve done directly but through cuts and expenses passed on to us from Frankfort. On September 7th we learned of a 17.4% budget reduction “across the board” in state government. Preliminarily, the initial local impact of this cut to us was a cut in our textbook budget $8,438, professional development budget $4,546, and the FRYSC budget was cut $6,400 (the total cut in these 3 areas at this time is $19,384). \*\*\*This amount is only roughly ONE THIRD what the budget office asked the Commissioner of Education to cut (69 million total statewide). Our current year budget may be cut more if the budget office requires it. We also learned in September that next fiscal year, FY 2019 will include an increase in the CERS payment into the classified pension system. The additional cost to the District will be $83,289 (from $165,030 FY 2018 to $248,319 FY2019).

As I have mentioned over the last several months, I was optimistic that for our October agenda I would be able to recommend a one-time 2% pay increase to each full time benefitted employee that would be payable in the November payroll. After continued discussions and consulting with the Commissioner directly on October 10th and the status of more budget cuts being unknown, he advised me that “he would hold off for now if he was me.” At this time I feel that I cannot safely request that the Board approve the pay increase as I anticipated until the full extent of the remaining potential budget cuts from the state are known. Again, all this information regarding the future significate CERS pension cost increases and the budget cuts became known in early-mid September. I believe our employees deserve this raise and I hope we can still consider it in the coming months once the full impact of any additional budget cuts are realized. I hate that we cannot do this in the timeline that I had hoped but I do not want to put the District in short or long term financial difficulty with such budget cuts still potentially looming. The state is making things very difficult as they continue to pass massive expenses down from the state level to the local/district level.

Fri. Sept. 15th: - Conducted regularly scheduled Administrator Team Meeting

Tue. Sept. 19th: - Went and watched our golf team after school at Ft. Campbell

Wed. Sept. 20th: - Attended GRREC Annual Law Institute which was conducted by our Board Attorney Mike Owsley and his colleagues

Thur. Sept. 21st: - Attended FRYSC Volunteer Recognition Breakfast

- Conducted HS Focus Group Luncheon

Fri. Sept. 22nd: - Conducted regularly scheduled Administrator Team Meeting

- Conducted Ele Focus Group Luncheon

Mon. Sept. 25th: - Attended most of Boys Regional Golf Match in Madisonville

Tue. Sept. 26th: - Met with roofing company regarding roof maintenance and needs

Wed. Sept. 27th: - Attended WKEC Superintendent meeting in Bowling Green

Thur. Sept. 28th: - Attended Golf year-end banquet

Fri. Sept. 29th: - Attended Jr/Sr High Awards Ceremony

- Conducted regularly scheduled Principal Group meeting

- Opened Bus 35 Surplus Bids (3 bids, $1,250 high bidder)

Mon. Oct. 2nd: - Conducted Focus Group Luncheon with Certified Staff

Tue. Oct. 3rd: - Conducted Focus Group Luncheon with Classified Staff

- Walked through buildings with Heath Burden to assess facilities and had discussions with custodians.

Wed. Oct. 4th: - Met with Principal Stockman to discuss KPREP Results/Plans

- Met with Principal Ward to discuss KPREP Results/Plans

- Conducted Focus Group Luncheon with Business and Community Leaders

Thur. Oct. 5th: - Conducted Focus Group Luncheon with Parents

Fri. Oct. 6th: - Conducted regularly scheduled Administrator Team Meeting

Tue. Oct. 10th: - Attended regularly scheduled Rotary Meeting

- Attended regularly scheduled Chamber of Commerce Meeting

Wed. Oct. 11th: - Met with a second roofing company about roof maintenance and needed repair

**On the radar for the coming month:**

- Continue to be active and accessible around our schools and attend multiple after school and community activities

- Continue Strategic Planning Team Meetings

- Attend Rotary and Chamber Meetings and WKEC Co-op Meetings as scheduled

- Attend DS Retired Teacher Luncheon at the end of the month

- \*\*Cordial visit from the Commissioner of Education on September 27th (also same day as window painting)