



PAWHUSKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Janet Neufeld, Superintendent

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The Board of Education, superintendent of schools, administration, and faculty and staff are pleased to share with the public the goals and accomplishments of the past 18 months. We are *tremendously proud* of our faculty and staff for their commitment to extending the goals and educational services to our students and patrons.

We very much appreciate the support we receive from our school community while we work to upgrade the instruction and facilities for our district students.

Superintendent Financial, Facility and Education Update:

- I. Our district is in significantly good financial status. New revenue, in the form of the isolation weighting, have supported the district budget in lieu of declining, rural, enrollment. This year our reserve carryover was 1.3M. With continued vigilance and discipline, we will work through the OK school funding challenges and its impact upon Pawhuska Schools.
- II. An undetermined amount of funding will come through the district from the Osage County Interlocal Coop EIR grant. This grant provides a 1/3 salary for a district technology integrationist. The integrationist is critical to the professional learning support for the 1:1 chromebook device initiative. This funding will be in place for the next five years. We are currently receiving more details from the planning stages of the grant from OCIC.
- III. The district continues to receive Title III grant funds for Project Launch. These funds have provided chromebooks at Indian Camp and the Elementary School for new chromebooks. With the new chromebooks we are able to purchase digital curriculum for classroom use in reading and math.
- IV. In 18 months' time, the board has approved adding 450 chromebooks to our 1:1 initiative. This allows students access to critical technology applications and programs needed to prepare for career and college readiness options after high school graduation.
- V. We are awaiting grant announcements for two grants:
OETT: Oklahoma Education Technology grant which is being applied for by Elementary Principal Mr. Cowan and his elementary teacher team.

Striving Readers Grant: A \$600,000 literacy grant being applied for independently by the district with assistance from Osage County Interlocal Coop.

- VI. New literacy and math prescriptive and adaptive software has been added to Indian Camp and the Elementary School. This assists with remediation and acceleration of student acquisition of skills.
- VII. Significant capital outlay projects have been completed under the leadership of Mr. Dean Hix. This includes AC/HVAC updates, roofing repairs, kitchen equipment upgrades, maintenance equipment, and new carpeting for classrooms. In addition, the board approved the purchase of a new activity bus. The board made a commitment to upgrade the facilities in the old gym. Lighting, toilets and lavatories were replaced and painting and repairs were done.
- VIII. Due to the federal, state, and tribal collaboration, the vent extraction system was installed at PHS. In addition, there is much good news about the softball field and the reduction in the amounts seeping after the fall gas plugging of the well.
- IX. The new athletic facility was given a certificate of occupancy last week by the State Fire Marshall.
- X. The board continues to work on board and administration goals. Two District Leadership Team meetings have been held. The board will continue to refine the board goals.
- XI. Due to new vision and board goals, new leadership has been aligned at the high school. Due to district issues of truancy and discipline, a higher degree and new culture of accountability is being implemented.
- XII. A new hiring policy was implemented in the 2016-17 school year to address additions needed to the current board policy for hiring practices.
- XIII. The district leadership is participating in the Creative Communities work as a result of the greater Oklahoma Creative Communities. This ties also into the Smarter Growth Coalition and community planning for the support and growth of the public school system.
- XIV. During the Oklahoma teacher shortage and crisis, we are able to maintain and attract new staff. With teaching shortages, come challenges to teacher recruitment and retention. With the addition of new technology and curriculum, upgraded facilities, recruitment of coaches and sponsors for student activities, we are able to increase the attendance and engagement of students and their families in the Pawhuska Public Schools.
- XV. Teacher/board negotiations went well with strong consensus on the issues facing teacher challenges, teacher recruitment and retention. The board of education

approved adding one paid personal day to the negotiated agreement for certified teaching staff to bring the total to two paid personal days per contract year.
Thank you for your support of the Pawhuska Public Schools!
Dr. Janet Neufeld

Board of Education:

President Michael Tolson
Patricia Counts, Board Clerk
Danny Ferguson
Justin Sellers
Tom Boone

School Administration:

Principal Kimberly Hester
Principal Byron Cowan
Principal Lauri Lee
Asst. Principal Chris Walker