

# Concord-O-Gram



## *Preparing All Students for Success*

*The Newsletter of  
School Board  
Meeting Notables  
Volume XXIV Issue 384  
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The Concord Board of School Trustees met on September 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in Regular Session at Ox Bow Elementary School.

The following business was then conducted after the Pledge of Allegiance:

### **Three Year ISTEP Trend**

**Data:** Mr. Wagner and Mrs. Cocanower provided a three-year history of the ISTEP scores. Language Arts scores showed a marked increase in the 2016-2017 school year. Math results showed a decrease among the cohort groups of students. Mrs. Cocanower stated this year's class of sophomores are the most tested class in school history. The individual ISTEP scores are currently embargoed, but will be available for parents at the upcoming parent/teacher conferences at the High School.

**Concord High School College and Career/Hallway Improvement Construction:** Mr. Koets provided the Board with a tentative calendar of event dates

relative to the construction of college and career classrooms and expanded hallways at the High School. Plans are to begin the bid process with advertisement approval in March, with bid awards to be made in April. The summer of 2018 would see the first round of interior renovations. Plans are to have the new maintenance facility completed by early fall 2018. In the summer of 2019, the second summer of interior renovations would begin after students leave, with the new spaces completed and ready for occupancy in the fall of 2019.

### **Hoosier Digital Leaders**

**Conference:** Kendra Divine and Matt Jerlecki, Corporation Technology Integration Specialists, shared information with the Board on the upcoming Digital Leaders Conference to be held November 16 at Concord Junior High School. The focus of the conference day is to promote empowerment of young people in technology, critical thinking, and networking. Approximately fifty

Concord students will participate along with students from area schools. There will be twelve concurrent sessions for students to choose from as well as present sessions. The keynote speaker will be Asmaa Elkeurti, Pear Deck software developer. Board members will receive invitations to attend the conference to observe the sessions and see the future leaders in the making.

### **Concord Schools District**

**Construction Update:** Mr. Koets gave a brief update on several current construction projects. The portable classroom unit which was moved from South Side to West Side is approximately three weeks away from occupancy. Student and classes slated to use the units are currently housed in various locations at West Side until the unit is completed and inspected.

The High school tennis courts are well on the way to completion. Students recently were able to use the courts, although there is about three to

five days' work yet to be completed and punch list items to be identified.

The lower level of the Education Center is in the renovation process to convert the space to office and work area for the Technology Department. Framing is current underway, and completion is projected for the end of October.

The main boilers at the High School are being replaced, with two of the boilers removed. All three of the units should be up and running by the end of October in time for the heating season. The chillers are on order and plans are to have them in place and completed by the cooling season. The five chillers will be installed during the colder months of the year.

The roofing replacement project is done, but several punch list items are still outstanding.

Mr. Koets provided an update on the power outage which occurred on Monday afternoon affecting the High School, Intermediate School, and Education Center, as well as some of the surrounding area. A main breaker went out and needed to be replaced.

**Financial Update:** Mrs. Smith shared the August financial statements which show approximately 67% of the funds have been expended in the funds at this time. The Capital Project Fund is still affected by the circuit breaker cuts. General Fund, Referendum Fund Transportation,

funds are on target for expenditures, with some slightly higher expenditures in the Referendum fund. The Bus Replacement Fund shows small expenditures, which does not yet reflect the five new buses to be ordered in the near future. A five-year comparison of General Fund expenditures and three years for the Referendum Fund were included in the report.

**Copier Request Proposal:** Mrs. Smith has completed the copier analysis and will be requesting purchase of copiers for across the district. This will streamline equipment as part of going to the 1 to 1.

**Sharing from the Board:** Mrs. Tahmassebi commented on the recent visit by State Superintendent Jennifer McCormick to Concord Junior High School September 12. The information was beneficial to hear, and that the State Superintendent chose to visit the Junior High School.

**Ox Bow Elementary School Improvement Report** Mr. Jimenez began his report by thanking the staff who were present for the support he has received since arriving at Ox Bow Elementary as Principal.

This will be the second year of implementation of the Leader In Me program at Ox Bow, and Mr. Jimenez shared that all new staff at Ox Bow, including himself, will be trained. The Ox Bow Elementary PTO is very supportive and active, providing a

number of resources and funding to benefit the students. He has found the staff to be very present and supportive as well. Plans are to continue use of Ox Bow Park for a variety of exploration experiences for students, followed by nonfiction writing assignments based on the experiences.

Ox Bow demographics show a slight increase in the Hispanic population. Mr. Jimenez shared that he has received very positive comments from parents when he has sent a School Messenger call and delivers both the English and Spanish verbiage. The social-economic poverty level appears to be decreasing at about four percent less than the previous year. Student attendance dropped slightly last year, and they will be working on raising the percentage in that area.

The ISLAND team are teachers without a definite classroom (Reading Interventions, ENL, Special Education, High Ability, etc.) who have combined expertise to provide tiered levels of support interventions for students. One student tested out of special education due to the support received. Vocabulary received intentional focus, as well as attendance and tardies last school year. The Indiana Academic Standards were unpacked so teachers understood them in order to implement them in their classrooms.

ISTEP scores showed a slight decrease in math and language arts. The Strategic plan will provide tools for teachers as they work to keep students on track. Another success story shared was Ox Bow had only two students who did not pass the IREAD-3 in the spring, due to the efforts of the staff.

The staff believe they are good and want to be great. Their goal is to have grade level reading levels increase from 80.48% to 85%. Writing will be included with the reading, and being intentional in the questions from the text read. Students will meet with interventionist team members in their classroom which benefits student involved as well as others in the class. Each student will have Wildly Important Goals, that include to read at or above grade level, and track their progress in data binders.

Teachers and students will engage in close reading of text and will respond with argumentative writing to support their understanding of the text. Mastery learning of the critical and important standards by end of the year will be reflected by NWEA and district wide assessments.

Student leadership opportunities are made available to students with plans to have over 62% of students involved in leadership opportunities on some level. The tree display in the hallway by the gym displays the

students who have taken a leadership role this year.

Ox Bow is a welcoming and connected school, where parents feel welcome to visit and become involved. Emphasis on open communication between parents and teachers is encouraged at all levels. The PTO is very active and supportive of the students and staff. Academic and emotional support is critical for all students. The Leader in Me program addresses the whole child with no discrimination. The program also has provided opportunities for partnerships with local businesses in the community.

Mr. Jimenez provided some of the professional development schedule that is similar to other elementary buildings, with the topical schedule for the months through the school year. Smekens Education will be in the building three times this year providing additional opportunities for professional development. There will be plenty of teacher support which will be very intentional to align with the strategic plan.

The Board expressed their appreciation for the report and the opportunity to visit Ox Bow. Mr. Jimenez answered several questions on the High Ability program and thanked the Board for their interest.

The Board accepted a donation in the amount of \$33.48 from Ohiopyle Prints for spirit wear and \$4.00 from JC Penney

Grant for the High School student activities fund for spirit activities. West Side Elementary received a donation from the Donor's Choose Program in the amount of \$1567.83 for nutritious snacks for Ms. Morey's classroom. The Ox Bow Elementary PTO donated flexible seating stools, classroom rug, book bins and tubs, classroom shelving, cycle pedals for classroom desks, leveled reading books in Kindergarten, meals for back-to-school breakfast and meetings, and various school supplies for a total of \$4,572.36.

The Board approved the employments of Lacey Cripe, South Side Elementary Instructional Paraprofessional; Maribel Espinosa Reyes, West Side Elementary Reading Paraprofessional; Guadalupe Valdez, Cecilia Herrera, West Side Elementary Special Education Paraprofessional; Lauren Rectanus, West Side Elementary Instructional Paraprofessional.

The Board approved the transfer of Sherry Gimson to East Side Elementary Building Services Custodian from the High School; Sharlyn D'Arcy to South Side Elementary Food Services Dishwasher from Intermediate School Food Services; Jodi Culp, Ox Bow Elementary Instructional Paraprofessional from Junior High School Special Education Paraprofessional.

The Board accepted resignations from Keri Roberts, East Side Elementary Instructional Paraprofessional; Jeromy Lewis,

Intermediate School Food Services Kitchen Assistant; Katya Dolgykh, Junior High School English as Second Language Paraprofessional.

The Board approved the extra duty employments for Anna Kridler, High School Super Bowl Math Coach; Kelli Stair, High School Super Bowl Science Coach; Michael Rach, Junior High School Intramural Running Club Sponsor; MaryFran Casey, Intermediate School Homework Club Lay Sponsor; Kelly Yoder, Intermediate School Girls Cross Country, Robb Freeze, Intermediate School Grades 5 and 6 Intramurals; Jenna Pahl, South Side Run the Halls Sponsor.

The Board accepted the extra duty resignation from Korey Schrock, High School Swim Diving Lay Coach.

The Board approved Jamie Brouillette, East Side Kindergarten teacher for maternity leave of absence.

The Board approved the educational conference requests for 62 employees for the months of September, October, November, and February.

The Board approved the Preliminary Bond Resolution which establishes the maximum amount to be borrowed, the maximum term of repayment, and the maximum interest rate for the High School construction project to add several new rooms and widened corridors to the High School.

The Board approved the Jobs for America's Graduates

(JAG) program which will be implemented over the next six weeks as applications are submitted, parameters of the program explained, and parents are informed of the program. Orientation meeting for the program will be held September 19, with applications to be completed by October 11. Approximately 120 students have been identified as meeting the criteria required for success in the program. Eliot Lawrence, JAG coordinator, will be working closely with staff and students as the program moves forward.

The Board approved the contract with Low Associates to provide financial software to update the system currently in place. Mrs. Smith shared the information on Low Associates previously and asked approval to move forward with the contract. This vendor is prepared to incorporate the new laws and regulations as required. More information will be made available as the software is moved to the new vendor.

A public hearing was held for the 2018 budget which has been advertised through the Gateway for public view. The 2018 budget has been advertised as follows: General Fund - \$39,900,000; Debt Service Fund - \$100,042,963, levy \$10,859.392; Pension Debt Fund - \$357,162, levy \$350,528; Capital Projects Fund - \$4,625,000, levy \$6,215,369; Transportation Fund - \$2,370,000, levy \$3,823,917; Bus

Replacement Fund - \$488,000, levy \$333,495; Rainy Day Fund - \$100,000; Referendum Fund - \$4,002,050, levy \$5,103,000. The 2018 budget will be recommended for adoption at the October 4 meeting to be held at South Side Elementary School. Upon hearing no comments or questions from the public present, Board President Mr. Myers declared the public hearing closed.

A public hearing was held on the 2018-2019-2020 Capital Projects Fund budget. This is a three-year plan for Capital Projects expenditures which was advertised in the Elkhart Truth and Goshen News. The Capital Projects Fund budget for 2018 is \$4,625,000. Budget amounts for 2019 and 2020 are best estimates and are proposed as 2019 - \$5,510,000, and 2020 - \$6,786,500. The Capital Projects Fund will be recommended for adoption at the October 4 meeting at South Side Elementary School. Upon hearing no comments or questions from the public present, Board President Mr. Myers declared the hearing closed.

A public hearing was held on the 2018-2029 Bus Replacement Plan which was advertised in the Elkhart Truth and Goshen News for a total \$488,000. The Bus Replacement Plan will be recommended for adoption at the October 4 meeting at South Side Elementary School. Upon hearing no

comments or questions from the public present, Board President Mr. Myers declared the hearing closed.

The Board afforded the public in attendance the opportunity to address the Board on non-agenda items at this time.

The Indiana School Boards Association Annual Fall Conference will be October 2 and 3 in Indianapolis. October 4 the Board will meet at South Side Elementary at 7:00 p.m. October 16 the High School will host the 7:00 p.m. meeting. The Board will attend the ISBA Region 2 Legislative Update meeting in Plymouth October 25. The November 6 Board meeting will be at the Junior High School at 5:00 p.m. December 4 the Board meeting will be held at Intermediate School at 7:00 p.m. The Board will meet at 9:00 a.m. on December 28 for the end of year meeting.