

MAGNOLIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MAGNOLIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Magnolia School District Number 14 was held in the board room of the Administration Building Monday, September 11, 2017. Board members present were Mr. Mike Waters, president; Mr. William Watson, vice-president; Mr. Steven Souter, secretary; Ms. Pat Ward and Ms. Lynsandra Curry. Mr. John D. Ward, superintendent, was present. The President of the Board called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The following business was transacted:

- The Board approved the August 14, 2017, Board Minutes.
- Carol Longino, business manager, reviewed the August 2017 Financial Report.
- The Board approved the proposed 2017-18 Budget including Special Education, as presented by Carol Longino. The Budget is required to be submitted to the Arkansas Department of Education by September 15, 2017.
- Leslie Mayo, Testing/Federal Programs Coordinator, presented and ACT Aspire update to the Board. Testing calendar for 2017-18 include the following assessments: K-2 Renaissance Online assessments with the following windows: fall assessment window from September 18-October 13; winter assessment window from January 8-February 12; and spring assessment window from April 2-April 27. English Language Proficiency Assessment 21 window will be January 29-March 9. The ACT at grade 11 will be paper based and the assessment will be on February 27 with a makeup day on April 3. Science Alternate Portfolio for students with severe cognitive disabilities in grades 5, 7, and 10 is due March 16th. The Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) also for students with severe cognitive disabilities in grades 3-8 and 11 window is March 19- May 4. The window for the ACT Aspire in grades 3-10 will be April 9-May 11.

The kindergarteners will no longer take the Qualls assessment and the first and second graders will not take the Iowa. K-2 will take the Renaissance which is a shift from testing in the past. The school was able to select the vendor for testing and will be required to make a three-year commitment with the company. The assessment will be used to make decisions about the curriculum, remediation, intervention, and enrichment. Important shifts in assessment include not stressing teachers and students, school will not be shut down to test, and schools will not be compared to each other.

Iowa data for first grade and second grade compared three years of data for English Language Arts and Math. ACT Aspire data compared English, reading, writing, science and math for 2015-16 to 2016-17 for East Side, Central, Junior High and High School. All schools were compared to the state in English, reading, writing, science and math.

- **Report from Principals on Opening of 2017-2018 School Year**
Chris Carter, Magnolia High School Principal, reported an exciting start to the year. The new semester test exemption policy was implemented the second semester of last year. We believe this policy strengthened our average daily attendance. Any student that has a C or higher average in a class who has not missed more than three days that semester and doesn't have more than six tardies per class are exempt from semester tests. The implementation of this policy increased the average daily attendance from 93% to 95%. Another part of that policy is that a student can choose to take the semester test, but cannot be penalized. A semester test grade can only raise a grade not lower it. The zSpace lab is open. This lab was paid for by the Arkansas Department of Education, requires the school to allow other schools to visit and view the lab. MHS is now offering a non-credit student council class. This allows the students to take more ownership of the school. Pep assemblies are now student driven and student led, we have a working student government, we have continued the tailgating as well as a community project called "Pack the Shack". This project involves working with

the food bank in Columbia County. New personnel: Josh Depner, social studies; Brody Doss, OCS; Hunter Fowler, social studies; Mark Fullenwider, agriculture education; Katie Herren, mathematics; Susan Jennings, family and consumer science classes; Trey LaValle, driver's education; Wendy Love, business department; Chris Phillips, social studies; LaToya Phillips, ISS. Enrollment: 216 sophomores, 219 juniors and 186 seniors. Total enrollment is 621 students. There are 509 students involved in activities. The AP incentive assembly is scheduled for September 20 at 9:15 in the arena. Last year there were 178 students enrolled in AP courses. Two hundred ninety-five AP exams were given in May 2017. Seventy-three students made qualifying scores of 3, 4 or 5. These 73 students passed 117 AP exams earning over \$11,000. There are currently 156 MHS students enrolled at SAU for concurrent credit and 218 students enrolled at SAU Tech. The goal for MHS test scores was an increase of 10% over the year before; and that goal was met. The teachers at MHS have made it a personal goal to continue to grow in the classroom using research based instructional strategies that improve student engagement and accountability. Before the ACT test is given in February, Chad Cargille will be speaking to 9-12 grade students in a schoolwide assembly. Mr. Cargille will be speaking about strategies and things that will give our students a little bit of an edge on the test.

Gwen Carter, Magnolia Junior High School Principal, presented to the board an update for Magnolia Junior High School. Parent visitation was held on August 11. There were 1,069 parents that signed in at the different classrooms on campus. Faculty and staff this year include two assistant principals, 57 certified instructors this includes two new positions; a mathematics facilitator and literacy facilitator. We have two counselors and a registered nurse, an in school center director and an off campus center aide, four paraprofessionals and other administrative and custodial staff. New and reassigned staff include Lantz Castleman, 8th grade social studies and athletics; Brianna Cowling, 7th grade science; Sam Cowling, athletics; Melissa Ellis, 8th grade mathematics; Anissa Franks, 8th grade literacy; Zek Green, head girls basketball coach; Rebeca Hicks, 7th grade literacy; Dr. Jennifer Kirkpatrick, mathematics coach; Teresa James, technology; Angel Lowe, 9th grade literacy; Melissa Matthews, literacy coach; Brett Miller, physical science and assistant girls basketball coach; John Rich, head football coach/athletics; Curtis Shannon, civics and economics; Blake Simmons, agriculture education; Dione Smith, 9th grade algebra; Aaron Thomas, head boys basketball coach and Marissa Youngblood, Spanish and EAST lab. There is new landscaping at the front of the school and new auditorium curtains are on order. Mr. Hurley and custodial staff have kept the campus nice and clean. Current enrollment includes 206 seventh graders, 228 eighth graders and 181 ninth graders for a total enrollment of 615 students. New class offerings include Agriculture Science, Spanish, AP Physical Science offered to 8th grade, Coding, two Alienware Virtual Reality Machines in EAST Lab and Library. Approximately 50% of junior high students are in PAP Classes. Junior high is in the third year of middle school literacy initiative. MSLI focuses on improvement of adolescent academic literacy with engaging strategies designed to improve the quality and the quantity of Tier I literacy instruction across the content area. It strengthens literacy work while filling instructional gaps while providing students with an additional diverse learning tool. Students have shown improvement each year as the strategies become embedded in the daily curriculum instruction. Magnolia junior high students showed a growth of 18 points during the 2016-2017 school year. The goal at Magnolia Junior High School is to increase student achievement while using a combination of differentiating instructional learning strategies: differentiated classroom instruction, course discipline syllabus, middle school literacy initiative, reflective informal classroom observation, reflective focus walk throughs, ACT Aspire interim assessments, ACT Aspire Literacy Intervention, ACT Aspire Mathematics Intervention, Alternative Learning Environment. MJHS is grounded in the practice of a rigorous standards based curriculum, organizational structures and a culture that promotes learning, effective teaching in every classroom, school wide assessment and a strong home, school and community base, with high achievement expectations for all students. We offer many opportunities for our parents and community to talk to our students through our career orientation classes and the WatchDog Dads program. Every day is a great day to learn at Magnolia Junior High School and every day is a great day to be a Panther Cub.

Natasha Coleman, Walker Pre-K Principal, presented an update to the board regarding the Walker Pre-K program. There are currently 112 students enrolled at Walker Pre-K. Natalie Reeves has joined the staff this year as a Family Services Manager. New playground equipment has been installed this year. The staff attended summer training on ECERS, work staff languages used to document and assess children's skills knowledge, behavior and accomplishments and on new early childhood learning centers. Upcoming events for the center include a field trip to the county fair, a smokehouse visit, picture day, flu clinic, red ribbon week and parent teacher conferences. Mrs. Coleman distributed a flyer about Walker Pre-K to each board member.

Angie Waters, Central Elementary Principal, reported that as of today the enrollment is 634. There are 236 fourth graders, 213 fifth graders and 185 sixth grade students. There are 40 new students at Central. Beginner band has an enrollment of 107 students. New staff members: Mary Plunkett and Sarah Dodd in fourth grade; Sarah Shannon, Lee Ketchum and Kim Hall in fifth grade; Ashley White, Michele Atkinson in sixth grade; Rachel Allhands, math coach; Chelsea Ross, music; Aaron Thomas and Zek Green, physical education; Sandy Morris and Doug Carter, classroom aides. Most all teachers have television and tablets in their classroom. Central will continue services through Generation Ready this year. New robotics kits were purchased as upgrades to existing kits. There will be two robotics camps this year, one in the fall and one in the spring. Forty-eight students will participate in that program. Annual Veterans Day program will be held on November 11. Last year Central was able to honor over 150 veterans. Central has implemented a new ALE program this year with Dorothy Stuart and Doug Carter overseeing that program.

Jill Rader, East Side Elementary and Kindergarten Center Principal, reported that they are off to a good start this year. There are currently 199 students enrolled in first grade, 209 students in second grade, 249 students in third grade and 224 students in kindergarten for a total of 881 students this year. There are 12 regular education classrooms at kindergarten center, 9 first grade classrooms, 10 second grade classrooms and 12 regular education classrooms in third grade. New personnel include: T. J. Powell, assistant principal; Andria Camp and Robin Wilkerson, kindergarten; Reshad Sims, physical education; Linda Sawyer, Sheryl Sandy and Regan Jordan, first grade; Mikayla Duvall, second grade; Jane Johnson, Cristina Lee and Emily Parker, third grade; Carol Camp, math coach; Sylvia Weldon, literacy intervention; Tarryn Zellers, attendance secretary; Joe Beasley, LaTarsha Fields, LaWanda Battle and Leslie Bush, classroom aides. Parmetheon boards have been installed in all second grade classrooms. Parents meetings have been very well attended and PIE was very gracious to feed our kindergarten center teachers and provide for East Side teachers as well. East Side has a new traffic lane that has helped with the flow of traffic. A new roof will be installed soon. All math teachers in grade 1-3 are now CGI trained. Kindergarten Center teachers, first grade special education teachers, principal and one assistant principal went through a co-teaching model and is being implemented. Upcoming events include: Constitution Day, pep rally, fun Friday, book fair, picture day, flu clinic, field trips to the county fair, a trip to the pumpkin patch and FFA animal show for special education students. Renaissance testing is being used at East Side to choose students that will be given intervention services.

• **Annual Report to the Public**

The Magnolia School District Annual Report to the Public was given by Leslie Mayo, Testing/Federal Programs Coordinator for the district, at the monthly school board meeting held Monday, September 11, 2017. Accreditation status for the schools for the 2016-17 school year include East Side and Central accredited and Junior High and High School as cited. East Side has one teacher with an Additional Licensure Plan (ALP) and one administrator with an Administrator Licensure Completion Plan (ALCP). Central has one teacher with an ALP. Junior High has two teachers with an ALP. High School has a teacher with a long term substitute waiver.

Enrollment for 2015-16 was 2871 students, 2016-17 was 2773 students and currently for 2017-18 is 2781 students.

The district receives the following federal funds: Title I funds are used for increasing academic standards; Title I A are school improvement funds; Title II-A funds are used for improving teacher and administrator quality; Title IV funds are used for student support and enrichment; and Title V funds are innovative grant funds.

Gifted and talented updates include a yearly program approval submitted online that requires different information/documentation depending on the monitoring cycle. Basic and Onsite Monitoring will occur during the 2017-18 school year. Basic and evaluation will occur during the 2018-19 school year. Cassidy Smith is the K-12 GT Coordinator.

Each school provides various activities to increase parent involvement and encourage parents to participate in their child's education. The schools expect parents to work with the school by attending parent conferences, supporting the school through participation in school activities and helping their child with school work at home.

The district provides support in various ways including setting high academic standards, encouraging the use of research based strategies, allocating resources to support school staff and instructional improvement, requiring data analysis to target student needs and provide interventions, incorporating a team structure district wide and monitoring and adjusting progress accordingly.

- **Approval of ACSIP (INDISTAR) Plan**

Indistar is the online school improvement portal. The portal provides access to federal budgets, categorical funding description, compliance reports, success indicators, meeting agendas and minutes, health and wellness priorities, parent involvement plans, special education application and school improvement resources. School improvement plans are developed by the schools with district support based on analysis of all school data. The plans address deficiencies and any achievement gaps. The plans provide information on support personnel, programs and interventions.

Title I funds provide salaries and benefits for coordinators, instructional coaches, intervention teachers, and paraprofessionals. Funds are also budgeted for supplemental materials and supplies, SAU Kids and Teen College, after school tutoring, summer school, phonics program at East Side, Generation Ready and parent involvement support and materials.

Junior High and High School have gone through a year-long planning process in order to change Title I status from targeted assisted to schoolwide. The primary goal is to ensure all students particularly those at risk demonstrate proficient and advanced levels on academic achievement standards. Schoolwide status will provide resources for all students and not just the targeted group.

Title I School Improvement funds provide before/after school tutoring, Saturday school, summer school, school improvement conference travel expenses, Sunday program, outside consultants, research based programs and technology.

Title II-A funds provide salaries and benefits for a district curriculum coordinator and literacy coach. Funds are also used for Praxis assessments and support for teachers in critical shortage areas. Professional development above the required hours is also used with these funds.

Title V funds are used to update and improve network and broadband services. The funds also pay a portion of the salary of a resource officer.

The high school was one of two schools in the state that received a \$60,000 grant to purchase the zSpace equipment and software. 2016-17 Perkins funds were used to purchase a 3-D printer, welder, and plasma burn table. 2017-18 Perkins funds have been approved to purchase online curriculum program for the majority of the career and technical courses,

computers and color printer for the agriculture department at the high school. Funds are also budgeted for other items, but the district hasn't received final approval.

National School Lunch (NSL) funds were transferred to support the Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) program and district wide professional development activities. The funds are used to supplement salaries above the required amount. Salaries and benefits or stipends are used to support coordinators, instructional coaches, intervention teachers, paraprofessionals, nurses, parent facilitators, and subject level facilitators. Technology, software programs, supplemental materials, outside consultants and the pre-school programs are supported with NSL funds.

Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) funds provide salaries and benefits for ALE coordinator, teachers, mentors, and paraprofessionals. Funds also are used to purchase technology, software, and materials and supplies.

English Language Learners (ELL) funds provide technology, software, materials and supplies and tutor(s).

Professional Development (PD) funds support district wide professional development activities. The funds are used to pay registration fees, travel, lodging and meals. South Central Service Cooperative Consortium, Cognitive Guided Instruction, Laying the Foundation, Generation Ready, Carla Soffos – Comprehensive Literacy, mentoring, Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) and College Board Advanced Placement are some of the professional development that was attending by staff.

- The Board approved the Statement of Assurance and the ADE Assurances.
- The Board approved holding annual school election in May.
- The Board approved fuel bid from Price Oil Company.
- The Board approved soliciting bids for drainage improvements on Sue Street. The motion was made stipulating, as recommended by the engineer, that once the work is complete, the City of Magnolia be responsible for any maintenance and upkeep; also Magnolia School District will not be a responsible party for any future drainage issues.
- The Board accepted resignations, a retirement and approved employment.
- The Board heard the Superintendent's Report.