

Bearden Public Schools
Annual Report to the Public
August, 10, 2017

Bearden Public School held its annual open house and conducted the annual report to the public on August 10, 2017 at the high school gym with over 133 parents, school board members, faculty, and staff in attendance. The evening began with a hot dog supper at 5:00 for parents, staff, students, and community members, and ended with open house at Bearden High School and Bearden Elementary. Bearden School District is fully accredited according to Arkansas Standards for Education and AdvancED Association for both district schools.

Superintendent's comments:

Interim Superintendent Renee McKelvin led the pledge of allegiance to the flag and thanked all stakeholders for attending. She explained her temporary role as Superintendent since current superintendent Denny Rozenberg is currently serving the country on military deployment in Kosovo. She stated that Mr. Rozenberg is expected to return to his position at the end of the school year. She thanked the board for the opportunity to serve the Bearden School district as superintendent and thanked all parents for sending their children to Bearden Public Schools to receive their education. She thanked building principals and all staff for their work in preparing for a great school year. Thanks was given to staff Kaye Livingston, Keshia Humphries, Patsy Garlington, Ronnie Emerson, John Childs, and Candi Finley for their help in preparing and serving the community meal. Thanks was also given to technology coordinator John Ray and maintenance and cafeteria supervisors Ronnie Emerson and Amy West for the work completed on campus during the summer. Chelsey Baily, the school nurse was recognized as well.

Mrs. McKelvin gave an overview of the district facilities updates: new vanities in BHS commons restrooms, vent and fan cleaning in gym, new ceilings and LED lights in certain classrooms and offices, playground additions, cafeteria updates, and painting. She told the crowd that other building projects such as a new parking lot and adding a 430 seat auditorium onto the existing high school would be planned for the future if the extended millage was passed on September 19, 2017. She asked for support from all patrons on the millage extension and had handouts with millage and election information available for all in attendance. She explained that the millage extension will not raise taxes, but will generate an additional 2.1 million dollars and that with the approved facility grant by the state the projects would be paid for. She also directed the crowd to two boards set up in the commons that had the architectural layout plan of the auditorium.

Mrs. McKelvin informed the crowd that Bearden Schools is again providing school supplies for students and encouraged all students to take part in daily school breakfast since it is free to all students in the district.

Mrs. McKelvin introduced the speakers that were to follow her in the report and invited everyone to stay for Open House after the report was complete.

School Board Vice President's Comments:

Mrs. Joannie Cayce (Vice President of the School Board) introduced board members who were in attendance, Megan Rothwell, Adam Baily, Tony Harcrow, and Doug Easterling. She then shared the Bearden School District's Vision/Mission Statement and Core Beliefs. It is the vision and mission of the Bearden School District that each student is encouraged, motivated, and prepared to achieve their current and future goals. Mrs. Cayce also wished everyone a productive and great school year.

Bearden Elementary:

Mrs. Sonya Launius, BES principal, recognized Bearden Elementary staff and introduced new staff members. She reported that BES students had increased their scores on the ACT Aspire from the previous year in all content areas (gains in each: English 3%, Math 8%, Reading 14%, Science 14%, and Writing 14%). She added that 4th graders were above the National average in all areas, 5th graders were above the National Average in English and Writing, and met the average in Math, and 6th graders were above the National Average in Reading, Writing, and Science. She commended 2nd grade students who made nearly a 16% gain in reading from 1st to 2nd grade, and also went up 14.4% in Language, 13.7% in Vocabulary, 14% in Math, and 27.9% in computation.

Mrs. Launius added that 76% of the BES student body made 95% or above in conduct last spring and notified parents that conduct grades will be available on the Home Access Center portal just like academic grades this year.

Mrs. Launius spoke to the crowd about the curriculum at Bearden Elementary and how it is developed by BES teachers yet aligned to the Arkansas State Standards. She explained how to access the curriculum, and explained the process and programs used by BES to ensure proper alignment to State Standards. K-2 teachers at Bearden are participating in the governor's Reading Initiative (RISE), K-2 students are beginning a new online state assessment called IStation, and grades 3-6 will continue to be assessed with ACT Aspire Interim assessments.

Mrs. Launius also informed parents that school starts at 7:55 a.m. and ends at 3:25 p.m. and reminded parents about drop-off and pick-up areas. She also highlighted the school's absentee policy.

Bearden High School:

Mrs. Felecia Doster, High School Principal, reported the BHS Mission statement: BHS partnering with our families, community, and post-secondary institutions will provide opportunities to assist students in accomplishing their highest potential as productive students and citizens in the post-secondary schools, workforce, and community.

Mrs. Doster reported that BHS was fully accredited, and that state test scores from last year showed a marked improvement over the previous year. Total BHS scores showed increases in all subject areas of testing which included English 4%, Reading 1%, Writing 15%, Math 5%, and Science 4%. 7th and 8th grade did show a small decline as stand-alone grades. Mrs. Doster explained that those deficiencies are being addressed with targeted Professional Development, book studies, classroom libraries, and research based instruction strategies. Composite scores for 7-10th grades showed 28.5% exceeding the national average in English, 7.25% exceeding in Reading, .75% exceeding in Writing, 6% exceeding in Science, and

4.25% exceeding in Math. She explained that the focus for BHS was on student education, but that school culture and maintaining a safe and positive school environment is also being addressed.

Mrs. Doster recognized Mrs. Jana McWhorter who is the Arkansas Business Teacher of the Year. She highlighted student summer academic activities such as a national BETA club completion in Florida, and a tour of Facebook headquarters in California for students who participated in a business competition. She commented that graduation rate was up to 90% last year and the goal will continue to be 100%

Mrs. Doster reminded parents that school supplies and daily breakfast are free to all students. She informed parents that school begins at 7:49 and ends at 3:30 daily with vocational classes running from 7:45-11:30 and college classes from 8:48-11:30.

Mrs. Doster introduced the BHS faculty and staff and made sure to highlight new staff.

Athletic Director:

Bearden Schools Athletic Director, Ernie Horstkamp, gave an update on the upcoming scrimmage games and Bears In the Park.

Close:

Mrs. McKelvin again invited everyone to attend Open House and dismissed.