

Bearden Public Schools Annual Report to Public

Bearden Public School held its annual open house and conducted the annual report to the public on August 9, 2018 at the high school gym with over 150 parents, school board members, faculty, and staff in attendance. The evening began with a polish sausage/hotdog supper at 5:00pm for parents, students, and staff, and ended with a district report to public and open house by the principals, teachers and staff. Bearden School District is fully accredited according to Arkansas Standards for Education and AdvancED Association for Elementary and Secondary Schools.

School Board Vice President's Comments:

Ms. Joannie Cayce (Vice President of the School Board) addressed the crowd concerning the Bearden School District's Vision/Mission Statement and Core Beliefs. Ms. Cayce told the parents, students, and staff that she wished them a great year and challenged parents to stay involved in their children's education throughout the year.

Vision/Mission: It is our vision and mission that each student in the Bearden School District is encouraged, motivated, and prepared to achieve their current and future goals. Other School Board members in attendance were Mrs. Megan Rothwell—Secretary, Jeff Ballard, Adam Bailey, Tony Harcrow and Ken Juniel.

Superintendent's Comments:

The superintendent Mr. Denny Rozenberg welcomed parents, students and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. He thanked the parents, and school board members for the opportunity to serve as the superintendent, and thanked parents for sending their children to the Bearden School District. Later he thanked the district level staff: Johnny Childs, Mynde Emerson, Keshia Humphries, Kaye Livingston, Patsy Garlington and Morgan Word for helping to prepare/serve the meal. He also thanked Kevin Stevicks, maintenance staff, K & M Cleaning, principals, teachers, and their family members for getting their rooms and the buildings ready for the school year. He then introduced District level staff: Patsy Garlington—LEA, School Nurse—Chelsey Bailey, Central Office Staff: Morgan Word, Keshia Humphries, Kaye Livingston. District Maintenance / Transportation Supervisor Kevin Stevicks, Mickie Null—Band and Trey Outlaw—Athletic Director.

Mr. Rozenberg gave an overview of district facilities projects this coming year based upon voter's millage extension in 2017: BHS Auditorium Partnership Grant Project for a new 420+ seat auditorium, Old Main demolition, upcoming Cafeteria renovation, BES Parking lot and potential new BES playground and pavilion next June—July 2019. He also thanked school board members for the continued support of funding the majority of student's school supplies for the past four years and continuing the College Concurrent Credit Program with SAU Tech. This year would mark between 150—160 seniors that had completed over 12 hrs of college credit at a total cost to the district of between \$385,000--\$400,000 over the past eight years. Vocational Students (between 25—30) would continue attending SAU Tech's Career Academy. The district's academic status is needs improvement and principals spoke more in detail about areas and current school letter grade rankings by the state. He also reported on campus security issues / priorities

that included: armed resource officer in coordination with the Ouachita County Sheriff's Office, mental health support for students through school counselors, safety devices for classrooms and offices, student / staff ALICE Training—Active Shooter Drills and possible state mandates / requirements. Mr. Rozenberg then introduced the building principals to make their building's Report to the Public comments.

Bearden Elementary

Mrs. Sonya Launius reported that Bearden Elementary School was a fully accredited and raised their State letter grade ranking from a D to B over the past two years. She reviewed various test scores and ACT Aspire Scores in Math / Reading / Literacy and Science. She also encouraged parents to encourage BES students to spend 10—15min daily with kids to read “DEAR time”—drop everything to read. Mrs. Launius reminded parents that school started at 8 am, dismissed at 3:25pm, and reminded parents about the drop-off points and that the parking lot was closed to parent traffic from 7am—8:30am for the safety of students. She also discussed the school's absentee policy. Mrs. Launius then recognized her teachers and staff and introduced new staff members: Para Pro—Stephanie Grandy, Teachers: Tina Anthony and the return of Shelby Nimmo.

Bearden High School

Mrs. Renee McKelvin reported that Bearden High School was fully accredited, with a building State letter grade of a C. She recognized the BHS staff and introduced several new staff members: Mickie Null—Band/Music, Trey Outlaw—Coach/AD, Greg Anthony, David Patterson, Tyler Gattin—Teachers/Coaches, Shane Reed--Science Mrs. McKelvin then discussed focusing this year on a positive school culture and increasing student engagement. She next mentioned several handbook changes concerning cell phone policies, 2nd Semester Exemptions for all students, employees walking students to and from lunch.

Athletic / Band / Cheerleading Updates:

Athletic Director / Coach Trey Outlaw reported on the current status of Bearden High School, Jr. High and 7th grade football programs. He reported that 28 players were in Sr. Football, 40 in Jr. Football and 18 in 7th grade. He praised his assistant coaches and 15 players that had attended 100% of the 25 summer workouts. Coach Outlaw then gave an overview on upcoming football dates for Bears in the Park and the first game with Earle. He next reviewed several statistics about how student involvement in athletics increased academic performance, GPA's 2.9 athletes compared to 2.4 non-athletes, attendance rate and college academic scholarships 44% athletes, 35% for non-athletes. Mrs. Null gave an update on the Bearden High school band. She started summer band camp with 9 students and ended with 19. She told everyone she was glad to be back in Bearden where she served as the Band Director during 1990—1991 and appreciated the support of the community for her and the students. She stated we need your support and that Parental Involvement is not just two words but was important for everyone's success. Wanda Williams gave an update on Sr. High Cheerleaders and told everyone that the squad had 15 members this year and did an awesome job at Jonesboro this summer and won several trophies. She also mentioned that Mrs. Kelli Barner and Mrs. Misty Sorrells were doing an outstanding job with the Jr. High and 7th grade cheerleaders.

3 yr Asbestos Building Survey: Results of our recent building survey concerning asbestos, we are pleased to announce that areas of the building which were found to contain asbestos pose no immediate health problems. However, in the interest of future safety, Bearden School District has drafted and put into action an operations and management plan to safely manage all affected areas. This management plan is available for your reading from the hours of 9:00am to 3:00pm Monday through Friday at the Superintendents office. Should you have any questions, please call Mr. Rozenberg at 870-687-2236.