

BOARD BRIEFS

Todd Terrill, Superintendent

August 10, 2016

Celebrations

◆ STEM Camp

Sam Thomas, District Math/Science Coach, shared with the board the benefits STEM Camp has provided our students and teachers. For the past three years, STEM Camp has been funded through a grant that will end this year. Over 400 students and 66 teachers have participated. Teachers and students were present to inform the board of the curriculum and activities at each grade level. The lesson plans were also utilized in classrooms throughout the school year. Mr. Thomas would like to see the program continue with possible community support to fund the camp in the future.



◆ Earlham Leadership Academy

Randy Wisehart and Becky Dimick Eastman from Earlham College and Keith Morey, Science teacher at Dennis Intermediate described the Earlham College Leadership Academy. The ECLA was a summer experience for RCS intermediate school students and Earlham College student teachers. This was a free program to the students from the RCS district, the academy was funded through the Earlham College Master's program. RCS provided space at the high school and transportation. The students ate breakfast and lunch from the free RCS summer lunch program. Approximately 40 6th – 9th grade students attended the academy this summer. Goals for the middle school students were to learn academic skills, collaboration, perseverance and leadership. This year's topic was "The future". Students engage in many activities throughout the summer and ended with a final project that was presented to family and friends.

Consent Items

Approval of Minutes—July 27, 2016
Human Resources

Adjournment/Bell Ringer

Thank you to the staff, administration and students for a great first day back to school.

Congratulations to the Band and Devilettes, we appreciate your hard work and dedication.



Action Items

Non Contractual Salary Schedule
Devilette Sponsor hourly rate

Board Reports/Old Business

Back to School Letters
Welcome letters were mailed
August 1st to
Pre-school, 5th grade and 9th
grade students.

Preview Upcoming Meetings and Events

REA will meeting with board members at an upcoming board meeting to discuss the Climate Audit.

Athletic practices and games have started, Mr. Terrill encouraged the board members to attend the athletic events as the parents would love to see them.

Work Session

◆ 1st Day Update

Bridget Hazelbaker, Communications Coordinator, played the Welcome Back to School video featuring community members dancing to the Justin Timberlake song, “Can’t Stop the Feeling” welcoming staff and students back to school. Bridget also shared with the board how many people are reached by the weRichmond Facebook page and Twitter account. Each school has a Facebook page that is used to share information and inform students and parents of events at the school.

Rob Tidrow, Chief Operations Officer, gave an update on the first day of school bussing. He said we have a few things to work on but the first day went very well. Rob thanked the bus drivers, staff, students and parents who worked so hard to get the students to school and home safely.

Richmond Police Department, the Pal-Item and local radio stations have all been very helpful in keeping our kids safe at the start of school this year.

Number of students attending each school has not been finalized yet, principals will be working on this for the next few days of school.

Back to school nights were very well attended by parents and students.

Click the link to watch the [Welcome Back Video](#)



◆ Cost Containment

Cost Containment

- * Reduced funding – General fund
- * Declining enrollment
- * Increases in personnel costs (i.e. health insurance)
- * Increased premiums for workers compensation and property casual

Cost containment efforts

- * Reductions in personnel through attrition
- * Alignment of secondary schedules
- * Reduction of the number of traveling teachers
- * Reduction of administration contracts (number of days of RHS contracts, reduction of administrative contract)

Reduced funding – Title I - Corey Hartley, Director of Elementary Education

- * There has been a trend over the last several years of reductions in Title I dollars.
- * Title I is a federal grant. Indiana was cited for the way they had been funding the non-public/private schools. Because of this, IDOE reallocated Title I dollars to meet the necessary requirements.
- * Fewer students

Cost containment efforts

- * Priority was to keep certified staff, non-certified staffing, supplemental programs and supplies.
- * Reduced 9 para positions but no one lost their job
- * Reduction in supplies

◆ Legislative Concerns

ISTEP and new statewide assessment

EL funding

Complexity index and foundation level funding

Diversion of funding – vouchers and educational savings accounts

Property tax cap concerns

