

Hello again and greetings from USD 467!

Last week Tuesday the WCHS Scholar's Bowl team traveled to Lakin to begin their season of varsity competition. They did well in pool play and with their hard work secured a spot as one of the teams competing for the championship. However, the Indians found themselves behind early in the match and with the last question, tore victory out of the jaws of defeat! Congratulations to Mrs. Joy Brown and the team for their championship! Continued Good Luck throughout the season! Also last week Thursday the WCHS Indians football team travelled to Victoria to begin the post-season play-off part of the season. Going into the game the Indians had a 6-2 record, losing only to two state ranked teams and gave them each a run for their money. Both the Indians and the Knights were evenly matched, however, Victoria was more fortunate, ending the Indians season with a 6-3 record, the best in many years. Congratulations to the Indian Football team for a great season!

This week I will begin with goal number one, Relationships-Students, Planning for a safe learning environment, and target number two, a facility plan in which to provide a secure and clean learning environment for students and staff. The goal statement is "USD 467 will provide a safe learning environment for all students."

As I wrote about last week, the first work targeted is Crisis Plan. Actions steps to achieve that plan include: evaluate current plans; research other district plans; develop our plan; communicate the plan and train students and staff; implement and document crisis drills; review and revise the plans as necessary; and, communicate to the Board of Education and patrons on the process and preparedness of the students and staff to implement the crisis plan. As I stated last week, both buildings must have at a minimum of 16 emergency preparedness drills each year; there must be 4 fire drills, 3 tornado drills and 9 crisis drills. Each building will determine what each crisis drill will prepare for-gas leak in building, strange vehicle around school while children are on the playground, intruder, etc.

A second target is to have a facility plan in which to provide a comfortable, secure and clean learning environment for students and staff. One action step already in place is the installation of electronic locks on the buildings with only one door unlocked and accessible to the public. Two other areas to help improve the safety is we are in the process of installing outside intercom speakers at WCES so students and staff will be able to hear any announcements while on the playground. Additionally, both buildings will be installing video cameras inside and outside the buildings. The offices will be able to monitor all of the exterior doors and hallways in each building. This measure will add another level of safety of intruder awareness we haven't had in the past.

With having a clean learning environment, this past summer the district custodial staff attended workshops to teach new methods of building maintenance-techniques and products-designed to help keep the classrooms more free of germs. The custodians wipe down desks and other surfaces every day in the effort to cut down on germs. Thanks to Ed Simon and the building custodians in their effort! As the KESA leadership team develops more targets and the steps to reach those targets, I will continue to keep you updated on the progress.

Last school year the board approved a Safe Routes to School plan which routes in town that have been determined to be safer for those students who bike and walk to school. The first Wednesday of each month, except for January which will be the

second Wednesday, weather permitting, is an AIM Coalition sponsored Bike to School Day that has two adults biking with the students from start to finish. Currently there are five locations where the students can meet up with the adults: H St. and Highway 25; J St. and 7th St.; Earl St. and 7th St.; M St. and Carter St.; and, the City Park.

The past few years, the Kansas State Board of Education developed a vision for student education: "Kansans Can-Kansas Leads the World in the Success of Each Student." Within that vision are five goals: Social/emotional growth measured locally, Kindergarten readiness, Individual plan of study, High school graduation rates, and postsecondary (past high school) success. I will begin sharing information on these goals in future weeks.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you have specific questions or want more information about what's happening in the buildings or district, don't hesitate to contact Lori Maxwell, WCES Principal, at 375-2314, Delbert Schmidt, WCJSHS Principal, at 375-2213, or me at 375-4677. Thanks!

Keith Higgins