

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE



December Update Board of Education Meeting *December 10, 2007*

The I Care character trait for the month of December is Trustworthy at the elementary level, Self-knowing at the middle school level, and Self-knowledge at the high school level.

Parent Sessions on New Graduation Rule

On Thursday, December 13th, there will be two information sessions presented to parents by the Department of Curriculum & Instruction to help parents prepare their children for 9th grade in 2008. The sessions will be held at 9:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at Isabella.

Topics at both sessions will be the new graduation requirements for next year's freshmen, Centers of Excellence, CTAE (Career, Technical, Agricultural Education), and 9th grade registration.

Back to School Campaign Begins

On Tuesday, December 4th, approximately 20 members of the Chamber visited Monroe's Pre-Engineering, Mathematics and Technology Center of Excellence. They were "blown away" as the Plant Manager from Mars Snackfood US, Ulic Young, described his reaction.

It was suggested as a follow-up to coordinate a tour for P & G, Miller, Mars Snackfood, and other business and industry leaders in the community. Mr. Young stated that business and industry would be very encouraged about the DCSS, if they knew about the preparation in Grades 9-12.

Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement (GLISI)

Preparation is being made for the GLISI Base Camp in February. Ten members of the Dougherty County School System Leadership Team will participate. The focus for the system will be secondary instructional improvement.

Faculty Meeting / PTO Meeting Visits

Beginning this month, I will be attending faculty meetings and PTO meetings in every school. Thus far, I have approximately 28 meetings scheduled.

Certified Work Ready Community

Harriet Hollis has begun working with the Graduation Coaches at the middle and high school level on our commitment to increase our graduation rate to 70% by 2009. This is also a requirement of the Certified Work Ready Community.

Live Healthy Georgia Campaign

Two communities, Albany and Rome, were selected as pilot sites for a statewide project to motivate healthy lifestyle behaviors and attitudes in the school workplace. The project combines the efforts of the Governor's Office, the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Community Health, and United Healthcare. Bus drivers, CNS workers, paraprofessionals, teachers, and administrators participated from four middle schools throughout the summer and fall. These employees were involved in focus groups, interviews, evaluations, and health assessments to provide information critical to the design of a healthy environment. The results of the data compiled from Dougherty County School System employees were shared on December 4th.

Balanced Scorecard

Since interest in the Balanced Scorecard has been expressed by several Board members, you will be provided a copy of the DCSS Balanced Scorecard that has been a work in progress for two years.

Accolades for the Exceptional Students Program

The DCSS was recognized as a leader in the state of Georgia for outstanding efforts to improve the performance of students with disabilities. According to Dr. Martha Reichrath, Deputy Superintendent of the Georgia Department of Education, data from the 2006-07 school year reflected the accomplishments of the system.

DCSS Calendar for 2008-09

The Calendar Committee under the direction of Deputy Superintendent Carlos Keith has been hard at work. Input from staff and parents will be sought in December and January. A final draft will be presented to the Board of Education for approval at the mid-month meeting in January.

Team of the Year Award

As part of the Superintendent's Incentive Awards, each school is in the process of selecting their Team of the Year. The ballot is attached, and final selections from each school will be made by the end of January.

Letter to Parents about Bacterial Meningitis

This week a letter from the Dougherty County Health Department will be sent home to parents of middle and high school students informing them about the potentially deadly bacterial infection and urging them to have their children vaccinated. [See Attached]

Youth Advisory Council Recommendation

The Youth Advisory Council of the Dougherty County Adolescent Health and Youth Development Center has recommended a change in our tobacco policy. The current policy states that the use of tobacco products is prohibited outside of buildings on school board property during normal working hours. The council has recommended that the policy be revised so that tobacco products are prohibited at all times.

Project SEARCH Statewide Initiative

Associate Superintendent Marlene Bryar from the Georgia Department of Education has requested that the DCSS participate in this collaborative effort dedicated to promoting employment opportunities for people with significant disabilities. The high school transition program is a worksite-based school to work program.

The Project SEARCH model has received national recognition and is being replicated across the United States and internationally. The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities' five-year plan calls for replication in ten areas of the state. Mrs. Zora Allen and Mrs. Kathy Thompson will attend an informational meeting on December 18th in Atlanta.

Ongoing Work with Senior Staff *[requested by the Board]*

Mr. Keith

- Update on Calendar Committee work
- Revision of Mobility Policy
- Placement of students in alternative programs
- Oversight of the DCSS Police Department

Mr. Lloyd

Transportation

- Ongoing work
- Personnel
- Follow-up on progress of policy manual
- Follow-up on second opportunity to complete form for field trip
- Transportation Committee Meeting
- Follow-up on concerns of drivers

Child Nutrition

- Update from accountant:
 - Meal participation monthly
 - Comparison with 2006-07 and 2007-08 percentages by school
 - Personnel

Facilities

- Exploration of Energy Management

Budget Preparation

Ms. Daniels

Updates given:

- Curriculum Academic Team (CAT) Visits
- Information to Superintendent's Council
- Update on professional development for teachers – Response to Intervention
- Parent Information Session on 9th Grade Registration
- GLISI preparation

School _____

Superintendent's Incentive Awards

Selection: Team / Department of the Year (Drawing \$300.00 once per year)

Criteria: Teamwork, Collaboration, Spirit, Passion for Children, School Vote

Criteria		Average (1)	Above Average (2)	Superior (3)
Teamwork	Trustworthy			
	Relationships			
	Commitment			
	Accountable			
Collaboration	Productive			
	Goal Setting			
	Data Driven			
	Logs(agenda/Minutes)			
Spirit	Team Norms			
	Roles/Responsibilities			
	Positive			
	Energetic			
Passion for Children	Role Model			
	Participation			
	Celebrates			
	Caring / Concerned			
	Build Relationships			
	Goes Extra Mile			
	Interact with Students			
	Provide Positives			
				Score =

Recommended Team / Department _____

* Each team would have only one vote.

Superintendent's Incentive Awards

1) Team/ Department of the Year (\$300.00)

Criteria: Teamwork, Collaboration, Spirit, Passion for children

Demonstrating Leadership

Problem Solving

Setting and Achieving Objectives

Work Quality

Work Quantity

Commitment to Students, School

Improving Morale in the Workplace

Demonstrate High Degree of Initiative

☐ Elementary & Pre-K

Suggested Teams- Grade Levels, PODS, ESP, Clerical

Support Staff/Team- EIP, Reading Intervention, Counselors, Media Personnel, Music, Art, PE, Spanish

*** Paraprofessionals will be included with their teams**

☐ Middle/High School

Suggested Teams- Departmental Teams, Grade Levels, Exploratory Team, ESP, Connection Teachers, Music, Art, Gifted

Support Staff/Team- Graduation Coaches, Parent Facilitators, Literacy Coaches, Math Coaches

*** Paraprofessionals will be included with their teams**



SOUTHWEST PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT

Health Department or Program

Address

Phone and Fax

Emergency: 888-430-4590

December 10, 2007

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The Dougherty County Health Department and Southwest Public Health District are joining with the National Meningitis Association to inform you about a potentially deadly bacterial infection that often strikes adolescents and young adults, and to urge you to have your children vaccinated against it.

Meningococcal disease is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children aged two through 18 in the United States. The disease, which is also known as spinal meningitis, is an infection of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Meningococcal disease also causes blood infections.

The disease strikes up to 3,000 Americans each year, comes on quickly and can cause death or permanent disability within hours. It is often misdiagnosed, since early symptoms can resemble the flu. One out of every four adolescents infected with the disease may die. Of those who survive, up to 20 percent suffer long-term disabilities, including brain damage, hearing loss, kidney disease and limb amputations.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends children ages 11-12 be vaccinated against meningococcal disease. For those who have not previously been vaccinated, CDC also recommends immunization for young adults before entering high school or at about age 15 (whichever comes first) and for college freshmen living in dormitories.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians have released similar recommendations targeting adolescents and college students. In addition, the American College Health Association recommends all first-year college students living in residence halls be immunized against meningococcal disease. In fact, the CDC urges all adolescents and college students wishing to reduce their risk to be immunized.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a new meningococcal conjugate vaccine for use among persons aged 11 to 55 years, which is expected to provide long-term protection against meningococcal disease. Vaccination can help protect against up to 83 percent of the meningococcal disease cases occurring among adolescents and young adults. Even though immunization is the most effective means of preventing the disease, students should avoid sharing water bottles, lip balm or any items that touch a person's mouth, since the disease is transmitted through saliva.

We encourage you to learn more about meningococcal meningitis and prevention and speak to your child's healthcare provider about immunization. In addition, we urge you to speak to your children about good hygiene and not sharing personal items that may help transmit the disease.

Sincerely,
Dougherty County Health Department
Albany, GA

Baker	Calhoun	Colquitt	Decatur	Dougherty	Early	Grady
Lee	Miller	Mitchell	Seminole	Terrell	Thomas	Worth