

Parent Communications Notes

February 5, 2015

Alternative Funding Sources - Dr. Kimi Sucharski, District Accountability and Data Analyst, presented an overview of alternative funding (grants) that the district has been pursuing since 2000. During 2000-2004, grants received totaled approximately three million dollars. During 2005-2013, grants received totaled approximately six million per year. For 2013-2014, the district received \$16M in grants. To date for the 2014-2015 year, the district has received \$13.7M. Grant funds are used for after school programs and provide credit recovery for students at no cost to the individual.

Dr. Sucharski searches daily for grant opportunities that may meet needs of the district. A committee meets monthly to discuss which grants to apply for, how funds could be used to meet district needs, and progress on grants that are being written.

The district has started grant writing sessions for any interested employees. Grant Writing 101 trains people on writing grants, and Grant Writing 102 is for those in process of writing a grant that may need assistance. Over 60 individuals have been trained. Grants cover many areas such as technology; career and college academies; afterschool programs; wellness; STEM; parent engagement; post-secondary opportunities; Mechatronics. Grants are often based on partnerships with community agencies, businesses, or other school districts working together to provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to graduate college or career ready.

Next steps: Increase district participation in grant writing training; identify partnerships; build a database; research alternative funding models.

Ft. Campbell Update – Dr. Worthington stated that he has been told that any decisions being made about Ft. Campbell and troops being moved from the post will not be known until June at the earliest.

Open Enrollment – Open Enrollment applications are due by February 6 for next year.

Academies – High School Academy recruitment meetings have been held in all but two middle schools as of today. The Academy application deadline is February 13.

Curriculum Update – Dr. Worthington provided an update on curriculum, particularly the standards to be used for instruction. Currently, Governor Haslam is asking for individuals to look at the standards online and provide their input. This public review is expected to be open until March. The CMCSS website has provided the link that can be used to access the standards for review and feedback.

Mid-Year Review – Dr. Worthington stated that the district’s progress on strategic goals is reported to the School Board throughout the year. At mid-year, a “listening” session with principals is held to evaluate how well we are doing on the goals. Following the session with principals, a written mid-year review is prepared that notes progress on goals and states the next steps needed to continue progress to meet the goals. The Mid-Year Review is now available on the CMCSS website.

Code of Conduct – Dr. Worthington noted that the Code of Conduct is being revised this year to ensure it is complete and that outdated information has been deleted. Sharleen Heins, CMCSS Continuous Improvement Coordinator, provided an overview of the work the CIC committee has done so far on the Code of Conduct.

Chief Communications Officer Elise Shelton shared information with the group on improvements that have been made in accessing the CMCSS website from mobile devices.

The group had the opportunity to discuss the February question: *Does the current Student Code of Conduct reflect our community’s values and expectations for ethical and lawful conduct and responsible citizenship? If not, what should be included or eliminated?*