



LIONS ROAR

USD 405 Staff Newsletter

November 18, 2011

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT...

No Child Left Behind Waiver

Kansas entered into a new method of accreditation approximately twenty years ago. Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA) was a new and radical method that used multiple student learning goals as one segment of the whole accreditation process. Before QPA, schools were accredited by inputs rather than outputs. Many of you that were teaching in that era recall "triangulation" of data. School Improvement teams from outside the district were formed and they came to each of our buildings to look at our "School Profiles." Building staff worked diligently at the last possible minute to get the "profiles" printed for the accreditation visit. We waited patiently after the visits for the improvement team to deem our buildings accredited.

Ten years ago, "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) was instituted but QPA was lurking in the background. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) was the buzzword and state assessments were the norm. Ten years after NCLB the federal government is encouraging states to file for a waiver from the NCLB requirements. Kansas is filing a waiver which should be accepted in February, 2012. In the meantime, Kansas must design new accreditation

standards as a substitute for NCLB accreditation. This is an incredible task to be completed in a short amount of time. The Kansas constituency believes there should be multiple measures to judge a school's effectiveness. Early models of accreditation include the 5 R's - Relationships, Relevance, Responsive Culture, Results, and Rigor. Kansas is hoping to incorporate a growth model as assessing student learning will still be an important component. There are some assumptions within this design that have yet to be decided. These assumptions are: 1) A new accreditation system for Kansas schools needs to reflect a broader approach to quality than adequate yearly progress in reading and math, 2) The focus will be on transition to 21st century standards, 3) Accreditation will be at the district level rather than at the building level, 4) Districts will be accredited and non-accredited with other distinctions within these categories, perhaps... accredited through growth or accredited with distinction.

I wish to emphasize this is very early in the process. There have been numerous meetings around the state for the purpose of defining each of the five R's. I am optimistic that a new accreditation model will better reflect our students' needs than our present system.



Our Representatives

Jay Emler, R-Lindsborg
jayscott.emler@senate.ks.gov

Bob Bethell, R-Alden
bob.bethell@house.ks.gov

BUSINESS OFFICE NEWS...

Thanksgiving Break Reminder

All "KPERs covered" classified staff receive holiday pay for Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving.

Wednesday, November 23 is not a paid holiday. Please enter the number of hours shown on your contract on your timesheet for November 24 and 25.

Twelve-month classified employees who don't work Wednesday, November 23 must use temporary leave or vacation.

REMINDER--Please HELP!



When making local purchases, please be sure to send a copy of the receipt to Jessica Goforth at the Frisbie Education Center (FEC)

OR give a copy to your building secretary with the following information on the receipt:

Your Signature (Legible)

Your Name (Printed)

Reason for Purchase

(ie: Football, Classroom Supp., etc.)

We are receiving statements from local vendors with tickets we have not received and are spending time tracking down these purchases. We are also receiving tickets with illegible signatures, and without information regarding the purchase.

We appreciate your help with these purchases in the future.

Mileage Reimbursement Information

In most cases, you will be reimbursed mileage for the use of a personal vehicle to and from a conference or meeting, if, and only if, a school vehicle is not available. Transportation requests must be made through Greg Konda, Transportation Director (gkonda@usd405.com); and requests must be made 10 days in advance.

Board of Education Highlights



The Board of Education Highlights from the November 14th meeting are posted in each building and on the district website under Board of Education Minutes. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will begin at 5:30 p.m. on December 12, 2011 at the Frisbie Education Center (FEC).

Dollar General Charge Procedure Change

In addition to the Organizational Charged Sales Card and your driver's license, any time you plan to charge at Dollar General, you will need to take a copy of the Tax-Exempt Approval Notification recently sent to USD 405 from Dollar General. These three documents will need to be presented each time you charge to the USD 405 account.

If you plan to charge at Dollar General, please pick up the Organizational Charged Sales Card and a copy of the Tax-Exempt Approval Notification from your building secretary.

If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Goforth at the Frisbie Education Center (FEC).

Please Update Your Information



If you have moved, or changed your phone number, please update your contact information with Tara Logan at the Frisbie Education Center (FEC) so that we may update our School Reach system and keep your records current.

New Options for Direct Depositing Your Paycheck



Would you like the satisfaction of not having to worry about your paycheck getting lost in the mail or to the bank? We can help!

It is now possible to have your earnings divided into numerous checking and/or savings accounts on payday each month.

If you are enrolled in payroll direct deposit, your net pay can be split by amount or percentage into as many as six (6) accounts.

Direct deposit forms are available at the Frisbie Education Center (FEC). You may also contact Marsha Huggans by phone at 257-5196, Ext. 123 or email her at mhuggans@usd405.com.

Frisbie Education Center Staff

620-257-5196

Gary L. Sechrist

Superintendent (Ext. 124)

Marsha Huggans

Treasurer/Payroll Clerk (Ext. 123)

Jessica Goforth

Clerk/Accounts Payable

Tara Logan

Business Manager (Ext. 120)

Linda Brunk – Part Time

Deputy Clerk (Ext. 125)

RCSSC Staff

620-257-5196

Mitch Neuenschwander

RCSSC Director (Ext. 159)

Dave Vesper

MIS Data Clerk (Ext. 167)

New Requirements for Meal Reimbursements

According to the IRS, reimbursements for meals, beverages and other items consumed should be reported to the IRS as taxable income unless it is an overnight stay.

If you are requesting reimbursement for a meal that was not part of an overnight stay, **you must record on the receipt and/or reimbursement form who you were with and what you discussed** to substantiate it as a valid business purpose. If this can't be done, the amount will be added to box 1 of your W-2.

The maximum amount you will be reimbursed for qualifying meal is: \$8.00 for breakfast; \$10.00 for lunch; and \$12.50 for dinner or evening meal.

Staff Development Registrations and Professional Leave Reminder

All certified teaching personnel MUST use the electronic Professional Development Activity Request form on My Learning Plan (mylearningplan.com) to attend **any workshop or other staff development activity**. This form will electronically process your registration and any fee, transportation, substitute, hotel or commercial travel requests (if applicable) and your PDC licensure and salary movement documentation. The form replaces the other forms for all staff development requests.

If there is no registration fee for the workshop, the staff member will need to register themselves after their administrator approves their request.

Note: Certified staff will still use the current leave request forms for any leave not related to staff development. The current forms for transportation requests and purchase requisitions will still be used for all other non-staff development related needs.

TRANSPORTATION NEWS...

from Greg Konda, Transportation Director

Chill Out

by Robert Schaller



Driving safely is all about attitude. In fact, all I can really teach you is attitude. Think about it—if you've been driving for a while, you know most all the rules—OK, so maybe you do need a refresher occasionally—and you know how to drive "defensively." You may not think you do—but you do. You learn by surviving to drive another day. What we often lose sight of are the dangers of driving—it is such a normal part of our lives that we don't consciously think about how dangerous it really is. Thinking about this occasionally is a good thing.

Driving conflicts have been with us since the beginning. "In Ohio in 1895, there were only TWO motorcars. Guess what happened?" An old photo actually showed the two horseless carriages on a collision course to a "T" intersection, both (male) drivers jabbering merrily to a carload of female passengers, and neither one looking anywhere close to the direction they were speeding! I'm not sure if that very old joke is based in truth or not, but if you have driven in this country you KNOW it could be! If you drive, you will be involved in conflicts. You can't totally control them, but you can control how you react to them. What makes the difference, and what you need to remain safe in today's traffic circus, is to keep a calm, positive, and detached attitude. This is something you can LEARN to do.

I can tell you from experience, most of the tickets or mishaps I've ever had happened when I was angry or upset (there've been a few). When your emotions are running high, your judgment can fail you, and you may not notice otherwise apparent, even obvious, dangers. If you find yourself driving while emotionally stressed or upset, it is important that you pull over, take a few deep breaths and calm down, before something happens that would be a cause for further regret.

Since we all make mistakes in our driving, it goes without saying that at any given moment, other drivers are doing exactly that—making mistakes, not intentionally malicious moves. When other drivers do something wrong, shouldn't our reaction be to let it slide, chalk it up to unintentional human error, the same as we hope they'd do for us?

Remember these words: "It doesn't matter." When other drivers make mistakes, or are rude (even intentionally), what do you gain by letting it affect your attitude or behavior? It doesn't matter. In ten minutes, you won't even remember that it happened. Since we are all human, we can't be perfect all the time. Don't let the error the other driver commits be the reason you lose control (one way or another) and have a collision, or worse. Many collisions occur when a driver is mad, upset, stressed, or distracted in some way. Try to keep your attitude rational, calm and positive.

Accepting Sealed Bids

USD 405 is currently accepting sealed bids for a 1995 Chevy Astro van. To view the van, contact Greg Konda at Lyons High School. Sealed bids will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec 7, 2011.