

East Central School District

P.O. Box 340

Miles, IA 52064



February 2012

NEWSLETTER

CHANGE TO THE NEWSLETTER

Due to recent changes to our bulk mailing, we will no longer be mailing out the newsletter to every household in the district. We will still continue to post the newsletter on the website and send a copy home with students. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter, please contact Tori at the school-682-7131 or tcreeger@east-central.k12.ia.us - and we will mail a copy to you with our regular mail.

School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC)

Each year, the SIAC team meets twice a year to discuss issues involving the school.

The School Improvement Team is composed of staff, parents, students, and administrators representing the school and community.

The School Improvement Team is responsible to: Focus on school improvement, serve as the district's 280.12/280.18 Committee, recommend and review district goals, review annual student achievement and make recommendations, develop/review long range strategic plan for the district, understand the school improvement process, work collaboratively to support the district and students, review the district MCNS/Equity program, review the district three-year Staff Development Plan, assist in district accreditation processes/plans, connect with community businesses and area service agencies in regard to school improvement efforts, address any committee functions required by the Code of Iowa and the Board of Education, conduct and interpret a community needs assessment every five years as well as use annual data to adjust action plans and timelines, maintain records of meetings.



We would like to have our first meeting Thursday, February 23rd at 6:00 p.m. If anyone would like to volunteer to be a part of this committee, please contact Tori at the school, 563-682-7131 or email tcreeger@east-central.k12.ia.us.

Report Cards

Report cards were sent home with the kids in January. If you did not receive a copy of your child's report card please contact the school.

East Central Community School District is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer, and does not discriminate in its educational programs and activities' on the basis of race, national origin, color, religion, sex, age, or handicap.

School Dates

Feb. 8th—Early Out
Feb. 20th—No School
Feb. 22nd—School Board Meeting



Kindergarten Registration

Parents/Guardians should call the Miles center at 563-682-7131 as soon as possible to notify the school if your child is eligible and to receive a registration packet. The packet will give specific information regarding the schedule. Prospective students must be 5 years old by September 15, 2012.

Pre-School Registration

Interested parents may call the Miles center to register students for the 2012-13 East Central Pre-Kindergarten. Students should be age 4 by September 15, 2012. The following information is needed: student's name, birth date, parents name, address, and phone number.

Iowa Test of Basic Skills

Beginning the first part of February, students in grades 3-6 will be taking the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. These tests are extremely important in helping establish the direction of education in our district, as well as the state of Iowa. They measure individual, grade level, and school growth in the core area as mathematics, reading, and science.



Because of the importance, we are asking that parents/guardians and students take the necessary steps to achieve success on these tests. It is vital that students get plenty of sleep (at least 8-9 hours). Eating correctly is another important criteria; eat a good breakfast and be sure to eat nutritional foods regularly. Preparing for the test at home might involve doing more reading than usual, doing everyday math problems (balancing the check book, helping with the grocery shopping, etc.) or enrichment activities in reading and math that are available from the teachers.

We appreciate this broad-based effort to help our students achieve at a higher level.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher conferences will be held Monday, March 5th and Thursday, March 8th from 4-8 p.m. There will be no school on Friday, March 9th.

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REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 19, 2011

The Board met in regular session December 19th at 5:00 P.M in the Miles Building. Members present were Roger Kilburg, Ryan Jargo, Mike Rickords, Mollie Galusha, Jon Wall.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read for approval. Mollie Galusha moved and Roger Kilburg seconded to approve the minutes as read. Roll Call Vote – Galusha-yes – Kilburg-yes -- Jargo-yes –Rickords-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

There were no delegations.

The financial reports were presented for discussion. Ryan Jargo moved and Mollie Galusha seconded to approve the financial reports as presented. Roll Call Vote – Jargo-yes – Galusha-yes – Rickords-yes – Kilburg-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

The monthly bills were presented for discussion. Roger Kilburg moved and Ryan Jargo seconded to approve the monthly bills as allowed. Roll Call Vote – Kilburg-yes – Jargo-yes – Rickords-yes – Galusha-yes - Wall-yes. Motion carried.

Mollie Galusha moved and Ryan Jargo seconded to approve the agenda with no additions. Roll Call Vote –Galusha-yes – Jargo-yes – Kilburg-yes – Rickords-yes - Wall-yes. Motion carried.

Supt.'s report:

- (a) EC/NE feasibility report presentation (01-11-12 at 7:30 p.m.;
- (b) January Board Meeting (01-23-12 at 7:00 p.m.;
- (c) Iowa Superintendents Finance and Leadership Consortium;
- (d) Preschool update;
- (e) Going paperless;
- (f) DE reporting update;
- (g) Announcements.

Mollie Galusha moved and Roger Kilburg seconded to accept the bid from Bayne School and Office Equipment (\$10,750.00) for lunch room tables. Roll Call Vote – Galusha-yes – Kilburg-yes – Rickords-yes – Jargo-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

Mike Rickords moved and Roger Kilburg seconded to approve the recommendation to request Modified Allowable Growth for "At Risk". Roll Call Vote – Rickords-yes – Kilburg-yes – Jargo-yes – Galusha-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

Mike Rickords moved and Ryan Jargo seconded to approve participation in the Iowa Drug and Alcohol Testing Program. Roll Call Vote – Rickords-yes – Jargo-yes – Galusha-yes – Kilburg-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the 1st reading of the 2012-13 school calendar.

Mollie Galusha moved and Roger Kilburg seconded to approve Keith Westercamp as the delegate district nominee for IASB Board of Directors. Roll Call Vote – Galusha-yes – Kilburg-yes – Jargo-yes – Rickords-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

The Board will continue to review the 700 series policies.

Mollie Galusha moved and Roger Kilburg seconded to accept the bid from B & G Automotive (\$325.00) for the 1998 Chevy Lumina. Roll Call Vote – Galusha-yes – Kilburg-yes – Rickords-yes – Jargo-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

Being there was no further business to discuss or act upon Ryan Jargo moved and Roger Kilburg seconded to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call Vote – Jargo-yes – Kilburg-yes – Rickords-yes – Galusha-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

**Joint Board of Education Meeting to Discuss UNI Feasibility Study Report with Northeast Comm. School District-
East Central Gymnasium, Wednesday, January 10, 2012 7:30 PM**

Jon Wall, East Central Board President called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Board of Education members introduced themselves-- Northeast Board: Chuck Corr, Mark Neblung, Rich Krogmann, Andy Friedrichsen, and Bill Costello East Central Board: Jon Wall, Mike Rickords Mollie Galusha, and Roger Kilburg Absent: Ryan Jargo

Jon Wall, East Central Board President, welcomed everyone and explained that Dr. Bob Decker and his associates would give the presentation and there would be time afterwards for questions.

Dr. Decker introduced his team, Dr. Liz Jurgensen and Dr. Michael Jurgensen. He explained that his presentation would be the same as the one given at Northeast in November.

Dr. Decker explained that the study was conducted in the Spring of 2011 and compared East Central and Northeast facilities, enrollment, transportation, academic programs, activity programs, organizational structure, staffing and financial implications. Information was gathered from both district administrators, site visits and interviews with district leadership teams and from the Iowa Department of Education and Iowa Association of School Boards. Information was not sought by the consultants from community residents, nor from individual educators in any of the districts involved.

Dr. Decker said from the beginning he and his team sought to address two central questions:

(1) "Do the schools in question now offer the experiences required for an effective education, and can it do so in the future?"

(2) "Which facilities would provide the best learning environment and the richest educational experiences for the students of both districts?"

A PowerPoint presentation was given regarding the enrollment data, education programs, activity and athletic programs, financial and facility information of both districts.

Dr. Decker gave the final recommendations of:

The research of the consultants supports the reorganization of the East Central and Northeast School Districts

A critical piece in reorganization is the financial efficiencies that will lead to stability and flexibility in improving and maintaining a high quality educational program.

Recognize that there are tax payer savings in the first three years of reorganization

Given the data and evidence, it would appear that the combined enrollment will remain relatively consistent through 2016

Efficient use of classroom time will increase for all students

Instructional opportunities are likely to become more robust

Opportunity to align the PK-6 program for vertical articulation that will prepare students in a more unified fashion for the secondary school program

There will be the opportunity for students to participate in a more diverse and broad array of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities

The efficient use of transportation provides the opportunity to save money and student travel time

It will be important to sunset the building at Sabula with sensitivity

The elementary school sites should remain at Miles and Goose Lake for the foreseeable future

A copy of the feasibility study can be found on East Central and Northeast website

At the conclusion of the presentation the team asked for and answered questions from the Board members and audience.

Jon Wall adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm.

East Central Schools

682-7131 – Miles

687-2427 – Sabula



The East Central School District has signed up to take part in a new notification system offered by the State of Iowa called “Iowa School Alerts.” **This program gives parents, the media and others the opportunity to sign up to receive e-mail notifications directly when we have cancelled classes, or will be dismissing early or starting late due to weather or other factors.** This service, which was developed by IT staff at the Department of Administrative Services, is **free of charge** to you and the school. The State funded the development of this program through the IOWAccess initiative, which seeks to bring more e-government services to the people of Iowa. And because the system is funded and operated by the state, you can be assured that your e-mail addresses will not be sold to anyone and you will not receive advertisements or spam due to enrolling in the program.

Here’s how you can take advantage of this free service & sign up for e-mail alerts:

1. Click on “Sign Up!” in the Main Menu at <https://schoolalerts.iowa.gov>. This will take you to the “Enterprise A&A” screen for the State of Iowa. If you already have an account with the State (say, for another online application), there’s no need to create another one.
2. Follow the on-screen instructions to enter your name and e-mail address, and create secret questions and your password. This step involves obtaining a code from an e-mail sent to you to confirm your registration.
3. Once you have created and confirmed your account registration, you will be taken back to the School Alerts site where you can click on “My Subscriptions” to add the school districts/buildings you would like to receive notices for. Once you’ve selected a school, you are asked to enter the e-mail addresses or cell phone addresses where you would like notifications sent. You can add as many e-mail addresses as you’d like! (Please note that some wireless services providers may charge you for receiving e-mails or text messages. You are responsible for those charges.)

We will still make sure that local media outlets are notified when there’s a change in our classes so notices will still be made on the television and radio, but we hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to be directly notified as well!

If you have any questions about signing up for Iowa School Alerts, please contact Neil Gray or Pam Koch at school (ngray@east-central.k12.ia.us or pkoch@east-central.k12.ia.us) or e-mail schoolalertsinfo@iowa.gov

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment to another district can be rescinded at any time. It doesn’t matter if a student has been registered in another district or starts the school year in another district— parents/guardians have the right to re-enroll their child in their school district at any time. To rescind one’s open enrollment, parents/guardians simply need to notify the resident district in writing.

UNSCHEDULED EARLY DISMISSALS

If it becomes necessary to dismiss school early because of hot weather, snow, water problems, boiler failures, or any other unforeseen circumstances; we will notify area radio and TV stations. Please discuss your plans with your children as you make arrangements for their supervision. The following radio and TV stations are notified: KROS & KLNT Clinton, KCLN Clinton, KWQC Davenport, KMAQ Maquoketa, WCCI FM Savanna, WMT radio Cedar Rapids, and School Alerts. East Central is on the same dismissal schedule as Northeast.

