

East Central School District P.O. Box 340 Miles, IA 52064

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NEWSLETTER

November 2011

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To: Postal Customer

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 ask for volunteers to be a part of this committee. If you would be interested in attending the meetings, please contact Tori at the school, 563-682-7131.

Winter Concert

PK-6th grade will have their Winter Concert on Monday, December 12th in the Miles building.

Book Fair

The East Central Library will be holding its annual Scholastic Book Fair starting Dec. 7 and ending Dec. 13. The Book Fair will be open in the mornings before school and each class will have time to browse during the week. The Fair will be open the night of Dec. 12 before, during, and after the elementary concert. The new catalog for the fair has many new and exciting selections. Hope to see you there!!

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

Nov. 9—Early Dismissal

Nov. 23-25—No School

Nov. 30—Early Dismissal

Visit to the Fire Station

The East Central Elementary recently visited the Miles Fire Station for Fire Prevention week. The children toured the



building, sat in the new fire and rescue truck, saw how much water can actually be pumped out of a fire hose and discussed different safety procedures in case of a fire.

They watched how the firemen get ready to go to a fire call

and couldn't believe how heavy their jackets and air tanks are. There were also many questions asked by our curious students!

Unity Day at East Central

East Central Students showed their true colors Wednesday, October 12, 2011, by wearing orange in support of "Unity Day." This is an incredible movement to put an end to bullying. The Raiders joined adults and kids alike, nationwide, to send a message to anyone being bullied that they're not alone. Wearing orange sent the message to stop hurting one another and try to appreciate the things that make us different.



Junior High/High School Activities

Check out the Northeast website, www.northeast.k12.ia.us, for activities going on with our junior high and high school students. Select Athletics under the Middle and High School tab, click on Big East Athletic Conference Calendar, and select Northeast High School on the right side of the page.

High School Activity Passes

Student Activity Passes can be purchased at Northeast high school for \$45.00. Family Passes (includes parents and students in grades K-12) are \$110.00. Ten Punch Activity Passes (good for 10 events) are \$40.00. Senior Citizen Passes are issued in the business office at the Northeast Elementary School.

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SPECIAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

The Board met in special session September 28th at 7:00 P.M. Members present were Mike Rickords, Ryan Jargo, Jon Wall, Mollie Galusha, and Roger Kilburg. Also present was Drew Bracken, Neil Gray, Sandy Hansen, and Tori Creger.

Mollie Galusha moved and Roger Kilburg seconded to go into closed session to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent or its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation. Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(c). Roll Call Vote – Kilburg-yes – Galusha-yes – Rickords-yes – Jargo-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

Roger Kilburg moved and Mollie Galusha seconded to come out of closed session at 7:40 p.m. Roll Call Vote – Kilburg-yes – Galusha-yes – Rickords-yes – Jargo-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

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

REGULAR MEETING, OCTOBER 17, 2011

The Board met in regular session October 17th at 7:00 P.M. Members present were Mike Rickords, Jon Wall, Mollie Galusha, Roger Kilburg. Members absent were Ryan Jargo.

Ryan Jargo entered the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read for approval. After discussion, Mollie Galusha moved and Mike Rickords seconded to approve the minutes as read. Roll Call Vote – Galusha-yes – Rickords-yes -Jargo-no –Kilburg-no – Wall-yes. Motion carried with a 3-2 vote.

Delegations were Warren Koch, Lance Abernathy, Don Hansen, Dick Keeney.

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

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

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

Supt.'s report: Enrollment; Auditor summary; IASB ABLE workshop (10/27) and annual conference (11/16 & 11/17); Sale of school-owed house; 2011-12 Title I application; Transportation update; Sidewalk concerns; School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC); Announcements.

Mike Rickords moved and Roger Kilburg seconded to approve the review of the 600 series Board Policies and taking out those that pertain to 7th – 12th grade and putting them in the back of the policy book. Roll Call Vote – Rickords-yes – Kilburg-yes – Galusha-yes – Wall-yes – Jargo-yes. Motion carried.

Roger Kilburg moved and Mollie Galusha seconded to appoint Jon Wall as the Jackson County Conference Board representative and Ryan Jargo as the Clinton County representative. Roll Call Vote – Kilburg-yes – Galusha-yes – Rickord-yes – Jargo-yes – Wall-yes. Motion carried.

Roger Kilburg moved and Ryan Jargo seconded to approve adopting the resolution to opt-out of the “Green Cleaning” mandate.

Environmentally Preferable Cleaning Products Mandate Opt-Out Resolution

Pursuant to Iowa Code 8A.318, the East Central School District, after an evaluation and assessment of its needs, facilities and finances has made the decision it will not participate in the Environmentally Preferable Cleaning Mandate for the following reasons: costs. The East Central School District will use environmentally preferable products when it is feasible for the East Central School District to do so.

Roll Call Vote – Kilburg-yes – Jargo-yes – Rickords-yes – Wall-yes – Galusha-yes. Motion carried.

Mike Rickords moved and Ryan Jargo seconded to approve Math and Reading as our short & long range goals presented by Superintendent Gray. Roll Call Vote – Rickords-yes – Jargo-yes – Galusha-yes – Wall-yes – Kilburg-yes. Motion carried.

Supt. Gray gave a presentation presented by Iowa School Finance Information Services (ISFIS) regarding school finances.

Supt. Gray discussed setting the date(s) for the presentation of EC/NE feasibility study. The dates will be published on the website when determined.

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

**Joint Board of Education Meeting
East Central Community School District & Northeast Community School District
Wednesday, October 12, 2011 7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order—Chuck Corr, Northeast Board President called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. and thanked everyone for coming. He mentioned that there was not a public forum on the agenda but any community members present that would like to speak could attend the next regular board meeting where public forum is always available.

2. Board of Education member introduced themselves—East Central Board: Jon Wall, Mollie Galusha, Mike Rickords, Roger Kilburg, and Ryan Jargo, Neil Gray, Superintendent, Northeast Board: Chuck Corr, Bill Costello, Mark Neblung, Andy Friedrichsen, Rich Krogmann, Tina Bartels, Board Secretary, Jim Cox, Superintendent

3. Whole Grade Sharing Progress Report— Northeast MS/HS Principal Sue O'Donnell spoke that her perception is that Whole Grade Sharing is going very well. She continually asks staff to monitor the situation and report feedback and all have stated it is progressing much better than they expected. Mrs. O'Donnell asked several students representing the high school to speak about their personal thoughts of the Whole Grade Sharing. The following students spoke:

Alex Banker	11 th Grade	Emily Eickert	10 th Grade
Sean Hook	11 th Grade	Madalynn Meier	10 th Grade
D.J. Fulton	12 th Grade	Tara Klemme	10 th Grade
Josh Soll	9 th Grade	Travis Barten	10 th Grade
Mariah Dixon	10 th Grade		

All shared that they couldn't think of a negative thing about the Whole Grade Sharing. They mentioned that most of the students had been coming to Northeast for classes for years so there wasn't much of a transition of getting to know each other.

Students noted that in years past there was a disruption in the beginning and end of class when East Central and Preston students would arrive and there isn't that this year since the East Central students are at Northeast all day. They mentioned that everyone has been very welcoming. Superintendent Cox asked for any negatives, the students mentioned the loss of former classmates and friends to a neighboring school and parking spaces available.

Superintendent Gray spoke that there have been some transportation issues but changes have been made and it isn't perfect but it is getting better.

Principal O'Donnell asked 2 Northeast teachers and 2 former East Central teachers now at Northeast to speak about their perception of the Whole Grade Sharing. The following teachers spoke: Diana Parson, MS Math teacher, Darla Hasken, former East Central Special Education teacher, now Northeast Business Education teacher, Kellee Clarke, Spanish teacher, Darrel Adolphs, former East Central Math teacher, now Northeast Physical Education teacher.

The teachers all expressed that the Whole Grade Sharing transition has been much better than expected. They mentioned that because Northeast has many open enrolled students from Delwood, Clinton, Camanche, the students just blend together. They commented that they feel thankful to have the students, staff and facilities at Northeast. A negative mentioned was Mrs. Clarke felt a loss for the former Spanish students that are no longer attending Northeast. Brenda McKone, Northeast Volleyball coach/East Central elementary teacher and two volleyball players, Jaime Frahm and Samantha Farrell spoke about how there really wasn't much of a transition because all the players knew each other and they just have a much bigger student cheering section at games now.

Karen Krogmann, Northeast Bus Driver and parent of two Northeast students spoke about how her sons have made friends very quickly with the new East Central students and how much they are enjoying the new staff from East Central. She mentioned what a blessing the music program is at Northeast and looking forward to the great things to come.

Superintendent Cox spoke about future technology plans and the infrastructure work completed at Northeast over the summer. He mentioned that more research will be done this school year to evaluate the benefits of the 1:1 computers and both communities will be involved when a decision is made.

4. UNI Feasibility Study Report—To receive supplemental weighting under a Whole Grade Sharing Agreement, a feasibility study was conducted. Dr. Robert Decker, Professor of Educational Leadership at the University of Northern Iowa, and his team have completed an independent, unbiased study and all board members have been given the draft report. Board members were asked if they preferred two separate presentations of the study or one together. They suggested a presentation together in the Northeast auditorium. A tentative date of Wednesday, November 2nd at 7:00 P.M. was decided upon.

5. Tour of Building/Adjournment—The Grand Opening Dedication and Open House for the Fine Arts Center and Safe Room Addition was mentioned. It will be at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, October 16th. The meeting adjourned and tour of the new auditorium was given by Superintendent Cox.