

AUGUSTA SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC

The Augusta School District held its Annual Report to the Public on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 5:00 PM, in the Augusta Elementary School cafeteria.

Carla Williams, Child Nutrition Director, presented information concerning the food service department. She noted that all of the students receive free breakfast and lunch due to the District's participation in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP). She also discussed the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for the elementary students. This program is new to the District for this school year.

April Grisham, Gifted and Talented Coordinator, presented information concerning the G/T program. For the 2018SY 46 students are currently being served through G/T. Grades K-3 participate in whole group enrichment activities, now called STEM class. These classes are facilitated by the G/T Coordinator. Identified students in grades 4-6 participate in a pull-out program for 150 minutes per week. Jr. and Sr. High students are served primarily through Pre-AP, AP and Concurrent credit courses. The G/T Coordinator meets with students 8-12 on a bi-weekly basis to provide them with additional opportunities to challenge their minds. Grade 7 is met with on a weekly basis in order to prepare them for taking the ACT early next year as part of the Duke University Talent Identification Program. These students also participate in mind-challenging activities. Both elementary and high school students have the opportunity to participate in QuizBowl and Chess tournaments held throughout the year.

Craig Parkridge, Technology Coordinator, presented information concerning the District technology. This year we have added iPads for grades K-3. This makes the District, K-12, 1 to 1 student to iPad. We currently have State of AR provided internet service of 150 Mbps of service. They also provide the required CIPA filtering. We have wireless access in each classroom K-12. All rooms have either a new projector with an Apple TV or a Touch Screen display with the Apple TV. There are 2 computer labs in each building – 1 Windows based and 1 Mac.

Georgianna Lester, Digital Coordinator, noted she is responsible for the creation of the Encore presentations for the Monday time slot of Encore period. These presentations focus on building character and culture. We have had and will continue to bring in speakers to talk with students about the value of setting goals and working towards achieving them. On Tuesday thru Thursday, students in grades 4-6, who have shown 80% mastery or better in their classes attend various activities during the Encore period. Activities include: a STEM class; a code/robotics class; Reading; MakerSpace, and online Spanish. Students not showing mastery are engaged in small group interventions with their teachers. I

share the Encore presentations with PK thru 3rd grade through Google slides so that those classes can benefit as well. On Fridays, each class, K-6, does a STEM activity during the Encore period.

Richard Greer, Elementary Principal, noted the enrollment is 216 K-6 and 37 PK. The Elementary was approved as a School of Innovation for the 2018SY. This helps them to individualize the curriculum to meet the needs of the students. We have received a \$25,000.00 SOI Grant. During the MakerSpace time students are taking apart machines and technology. This teaches them valuable life skills. The students are participating in PE everyday this year. This is an effort to help with childhood obesity.

Jay Murphree, HS Principal, noted the bells and intercom were now working in the building. He noted the focus for this school year was changing the culture of the building. To this point things are running good and we are having a successful year.

Janet Holzhauser, Director of Learning Services, addressed the community. We have been working diligently to get programs in place that will help teachers accurately diagnose the strengths and weaknesses of the students. The ADE has partnered with school districts to put an assessment piece in place for grades K-2, and we received that program at no cost to the District. The most important step we have taken has been to implement the STAR 360 program, along with Accelerated Reading applications. With STAR 360, we have been able to give all students a diagnostic reading and math assessment. These assessments accurately test the current knowledge of a student with a few short questions, and teachers can tailor the individual student needs using the results.

Brian Mannon, Director of Student Services, presented information concerning his role in the District. This year I have been doing classroom observations on all staff members and monitoring student engagement in the classrooms. In order to boost engagement and morale within the District I have begun adding extracurricular activities for the students. We have restarted and reenergized the FBLA club and set up meetings and activities for the club. We have also started a Jr. and Sr. high Quiz Bowl Club. They have been practicing weekly and will be in their first competition this November. On Fridays, in the cafeteria, we have had competitions and games for students to enjoy in order to boost student morale. We are organizing competitions taking place during the mentoring periods. These competitions are to boost leadership and comradery among grade levels.

Cathy Tanner, Superintendent, noted enrollment is down by about 15 students from the 2017SY. She stated the District has received notice from ADE noting we will be removed from the fiscal watch list. She noted that we would still be diligent with the District funds. With enrollment going down federal funding

will also go down. We had a grant writer come and do a presentation on how to write grants to help with this loss of funds. The elementary school is a focus school and the high school is a priority. This is partly due to the change in the test in the last 3 years. Concerning facilities master plan, Nabholz Construction will be coming to the District soon to go over the plans for the multipurpose building. She discussed the plans for buildings noting that the floors in the cafeterias will be addressed during the summer break. She is looking into replacing and adding sidewalks. In compliance with Rule 4.05.1, she requested comments and/or questions concerning facilities. There were no concerns presented.