

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC PRESENTED SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

The Augusta School District presented its Annual Report to the Public on Tuesday, September 27, 2016, 6:00 PM, in Augusta Elementary School cafeteria.

Superintendent Cathy Tanner presented information for the District. She noted that the school year is going great at both the Elementary and High School. That our focus is on learning.

The Administrative staff is working with teachers and students to provide a safe and conducive climate where learning can take place.

The Parent Liaison and Dean of Students, Ricky Pilcher, is reaching out to students and to parents to build a relationship between parents and the school.

Teachers are building rapport and relationships with students.

Teachers are challenging students to become more academically focused.

Students feel the culture changing and like the higher expectations for behavior and performance.

Students are developing a stronger pride for their school and community.

Lastly, the school (administrators, teachers, staff, and students) want to build strong bonds with the community and want the community to be proud of its school.

On Oct 1, 2015 the enrollment was 376 but today the enrollment is 392.

PreK has 40 students which is down slightly from last year.

All students enrolled in Augusta Schools receive a free breakfast and lunch because we were approved for the Community Eligibility Program.

Students in grades 7-12 received individual Apple iPads and students in grades 4, 5, and 6 will receive iPads soon.

Augusta High School is classified as a Priority School and Augusta Elementary is classified as a Focus School due to test scores. School Improvement Specialists are working with both schools to make improvements in academic achievement. Test scores for this school year are frozen which means it is a building year for schools. Students have taken 3 different tests the last three years and the state does not have reliable data at this time to create a baseline and adequate yearly progress.

The Augusta Schools are working with AR Care to provide afterschool tutoring and activities to all students. Students can sign up at either school. Transportation will be provided.

Funding for this year has decreased due to lower number of students last October.

Title I which provides several opportunities for students to receive additional help with academics, afterschool programs, educational materials dropped nearly 14%; Title IIA which provides opportunities to train teachers and also hire new teachers dropped about 8%; NSLA had a decrease of about 10%.

With all the decrease in funding for this school year, the Arkansas Department of Education reviewed our budget and determined that this budget was better than in previous years. A couple of positions were absorbed at the beginning of the school year and more may have to be absorbed in the future. Currently approximately \$60,000 in cuts were done in certified staff and \$40,000 in classified staff. Salaries paid from district operating funds for this school year total approx. 1.5 million dollars. There is approx. another \$500,000 in salaries paid in federal and state funds also.

Plans are to end the 2016-2017 school year with approximately 1.2 million or more. The additional 3.2 mills should bring in approx. \$180,000 more in revenue each year.

With the millage that was passed last fall, the high school is nearly completely renovated. The asbestos was removed with floors given a totally new look, new paint, new lighting, new cameras will be added shortly, and also new heat and air could possibly be added.

The bus barn is more than half way completed.....we are waiting for the plumbers, heat and air guys, electricians, builders, etc.... to start with completion of inside and utilities. When the bus barn is completed, the school will plan to have another auction on site at the Laura Conner Complex to clear out the building so it can be sold.

Lastly the steel has been delivered for gym addition and bids for this project will go out shortly. We have 5 teachers on Alternative Licensure Plans and all 5 are working toward fulfilling the requirements of the ADE to be certified.

Plans are being made now to add 2 new vocational areas to high school next fall if approved by the ADE.....Criminal Justice and Jobs for Arkansas Graduates are being submitted for approval. Also the Augusta High School is applying for the opportunity to become a School of Innovation which allows more flexibility in teacher certifications but also allows career academies or career focus paths to be accessible for all students.

April Grisham, G/T Coordinator presented the information for the Augusta School District Gifted and Talented Program. For the 2016-17 school year 48 students are currently being served through the Augusta G/T program. Grades K-3 participate in whole group enrichment activities facilitated by the G/T Coordinator. Identified students in grades 4-6 participate in a pull-out program for 150 minutes per week. Jr. High and high school students are served primarily through Pre-AP, AP and concurrent credit courses. The G/T coordinator also meets with these students on a monthly basis to provide them with additional opportunities to challenge their minds. Both elementary and high school students have the opportunity to participate in QuizBowl and Chess tournaments held throughout the year.

Lisa Martin, K-12 Principal, presented information on each buildings enrollment and improving communication through Facebook and the local newspaper. She noted the Apple grant implementation is going well at the high school and the District is purchasing iPads for grades 4 through 6 using 1003a grant money. She invited everyone to See You at the Pole event to be held on Wednesday, September 28, 7:45AM, at the elementary flag pole. This event was organized by the Sr. High Girls Basketball team.

Jack Broach, HS School Improvement Specialist, and Heather Hite, AE School Improvement Specialist, discussed the steps being implemented to help with test scores through the District.

Ms. Tanner opened the floor to questions from the audience. No questions were presented.

In conclusion this has been a good start to the school year. We are here to educate students and that should be the focus for this district.