

## 2014-15 Superintendent Blog

**June 26, 2015**

Notice of Special Meeting, June 30, 2015

**June 17, 2015**

2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR-1ST DAY OF SCHOOL HAS BEEN MOVED TO September 9, 2015

**May 21, 2015**

Special Meeting, Budget Draft PowerPoint

**May 19, 2015**

**April 16, 2015**

Levy Informational Pamphlet ([click to open](#))

**March 24, 2015**

Board Budget Workshop for May 19, 2015 Supplemental Levy

**February 26, 2015 & March 3, 2015**

Community Levy Meetings 6:00 p.m. Troy Elementary Multipurpose Room

**February 20, 2015**

The school board has approved the 2015-16 school calendar. The calendar is similar to this year's calendar with the exception of changing the amount of all day in-service days to bi-weekly collaboration early release days. I have included below questions and answers regarding the new calendar and our newly adopted curriculum framework called Beyond Textbooks:

**Q:** As a parent, I really appreciated the calendar survey that allowed parent input regarding late start verses early release for teacher collaboration days as well as the date range for school to begin. However, I was wondering why you did not ask for our input for which day of the week the district should have collaboration?

**A:** Thank you for taking your time to reply to the calendar survey and all the surveys you are asked to complete throughout the year. We really do read all of them and take each and every one into consideration during the decision making process.

It was the administrative team (Superintendent, Special Education Director and the Principals) who recommended Wednesday as the day for teacher collaboration.

We believe it to be of more educational benefit to have it during the middle of the week. Teacher collaboration time in Troy School District will involve a systematic approach to teaching and learning.

Teachers will meet to discuss the newly adopted framework; Beyond Textbooks (see the explanation of BT in the next question). They will discuss which Idaho Core Standards will be taught over the following weeks and the results of the formative assessments taken by the students.

Teachers will coordinate how they will teach the Essential Idaho Core Standards and the Reteaching and Enrichment of those standards. For example, at the Jr-Sr High level, the math teachers will meet with Science, Social Studies, Ag, Computer teachers etc. to discuss which standards are being taught and how they can support the Essential Idaho Core Math Standards being taught. The teachers may have assignments and activities that they can teach to reinforce and/or enrich the standards being taught by the math teacher.

Students who passed the formative assessments will be given enrichment activities and assignments and those students who did not pass the formative assessments will be re-taught the standards and re-assessed.

This process will take ongoing collaboration and coordination. Having the collaboration in the middle of the week gives teachers the opportunity to give the formative assessment, have the results, and plan to address the re-teaching needs immediately. This systematic approach has proven to be most effective with student achievement.

The hope and plan is to also have Targeted Tutoring for students who need more intense instruction on the essential standards during the time the teachers are collaborating. This will be accomplished by having the paraprofessionals on staff work individually and in small groups with students who have failed the formative assessments.

This has proven to be a successful model, and highly recommended by school districts using it. Student achievement is our focus in the implementation of this effective framework.

**Q:** What is Beyond Textbooks?

**A:** Beyond Textbooks is a nationally recognized, collaborative framework for implementation of Idaho Core Standards. Beyond Textbooks has a web based curriculum calendar and map for the teaching of the Idaho Common Core Standards. It has a bank of 29,000 resources to help teachers with developing lesson plans aligned with the Idaho Common Core. It is a systematic approach to teaching the Idaho Common Core and ensuring that all students are assessed and re-taught standards they have not mastered, and to provide enrichment activities for those students who have mastered the essential standards.

Beyond Textbooks is a new way of planning and collaboration.

Draft Starting Points for BT Goals for:

1. Essential Standards
2. Unwrapped Documents
3. Curriculum Calendars
4. Specific Materials
5. BT Wiki
6. Formative Assessments
7. Reteach and Enrich

With Beyond Textbooks, we will all have the knowledge of: what it is we want all students to learn, how we know when each student has acquired the essential knowledge and skills, what happens in our district when a student does not learn, what happens in our school when a student meets proficiency.



CNC Plasma Table



Cody Nelson's Art



Santa's Workshop



Riley Hagenbaugh-3D Manipulatives

## December 10, 2014

As I walked through the Jr.-Sr. High classes today I saw many exciting learning opportunities for our students. In Mr. Bruns' Science class the students were outside collecting weather data. In Mr. McFall's Algebra class the students were working in small groups having mathematical discussions. In Mr. Braun's Ag class there was a well coordinated and very involved wreath making activity. In Mr. Braun's class I was able to view various individual projects that students created and pictured above is a metal project created by Cody Nelson - absolutely beautiful! The metal Trojan head was made by using the CNC Plasma Table which was purchased by a grant through the Nez Perce Tribe. In Mrs. Dunworth's Geometry class the students were using 3D manipulatives to understand geometry concepts.

It is always a pleasure to see our students' minds at work!



Vicky Bledsoe Celebration

Congratulations to our Jr./Sr. High Counselor, Mrs. Bledsoe, for obtaining her National Certification. Mrs. Bledsoe is one of only two counselors in the state of Idaho to be nationally certified. The staff celebrated her accomplishment with a chocolate party!

## October 13, 2014

The University of Idaho continues to work with Troy School District to provide chrome books for student use and training to our teachers on how to best use this technology.

This school year we have begun what is called Compassionate Education. Dr. Wappatt from the University of Idaho has held three training sessions for our teachers and staff. Compassionate Education is a reminder to all of us that life and education can be very stressful and we must have an understanding of the stress and challenges our students carry with them each day. We have learned techniques on how to help children relax and "de-stress" when they are having a difficult time learning or concentrating in school.

Dr. Wappatt will also be invited into the classroom to work with the whole class and help the students learn directly from him techniques for managing stress.

About Dr. Wappett:

- Associate Director of the University of Idaho Center on Disabilities and Human Development, Idaho's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD).
- Director of the University of Idaho Confucius Institute
- Associate Professor in UI College of Education and UI Honors Program.
- Ph.D. in Special Education (Disability Policy and Inclusion) from the University of Utah.
- Clinical Training in Mind/Body Medicine from the Harvard Medical School.
- Advisor to the University of Idaho Laughter Club.

Many students come from a variety of stressful situations each day such as:

- Parents getting divorced and/or splitting up
- Trying to get along with new step-parents and step siblings
- Fighting with siblings
- Parents fighting
- Money Issues
- Parents going to Afghanistan and Iraq
- Loved ones dying
- Pressure to do well on sports teams
- Friends being mean and talking behind their back
- Having no friend support
- Worrying about a sick family member or pet
- Family members having cancer

Compassionate education:

- Compassion is a pre-requisite for fostering resiliency. Compassion is at the very heart of teaching and learning.
- Compassion is a feeling of deep empathy and respect for another who is stricken by misfortune and the strong desire to actively do something about it. The human quality of understanding the suffering of others paired with a desire to help alleviate it.

Resilient students need resilient teachers. Good content teaching requires modeling of skills, and attitudes. If teachers themselves are barely coping, if teachers cannot bounce back from the challenges they face, how are they to sustain the strength needed to promote resiliency among their students? (Wolpow and Askov, 2008)

In January we will have additional training for the Idaho Common Core Standards. We will be using Beyond Textbooks which is a systematic approach to teaching the Idaho Common Core Standards.

Beyond Textbooks Key Starting Points:

- 1) Curriculum – (Beyond Textbooks Wiki-digital version of curriculum, Specific Materials-What resources we need), Curriculum Calendars-When we teach it and for how long, Unwrapped Documents -What good enough looks like, Essential Standards What students must learn)
- 2) Instruction – Cooperative Learning, Marzano Strategies, Balanced Math/ Literacy, Essential Elements of Instruction, Classroom Management
- 3) Assessment – Individual Progress Monitoring, Can't Do/Won't Do-Can students perform the skill or is it a motivational issue, Common Formatives & Benchmarks

4) Intervention – Reteach and Enrich, Title, Daily Math Skills, Summer School (credit recovery), Special Services

5) A Common Vision of Culture – Who We Are (Guiding Principles), Why We Exist (Mission Statement), How We Treat Each Other, What Quality Instruction Looks Like

The Reasons for the above Starting Points:

- \* We will know exactly what it is we want all students to learn.
- \* We will know when each student has acquired the essential knowledge and skills.
- \* We will know what happens in our schools when a student does not learn.
- \* We will know what happens in our schools when a student meets proficiency.

## **July 30, 2014**

I would like to offer a huge "thank you" for your support for the May supplemental levy!

We have begun the construction for Trojan Drive. The old asphalt has been removed and the new base has been built. August 5th will be the installation of the new asphalt. We will be asking that patrons no longer park on the side of the road so that we can keep our new road in good shape for a long time. We have a huge parking lot where there is plenty of available parking. Our parking lot was sealed and our stripes were repainted. All of this was possible because our voters passed a supplemental levy last August (2013) for road and parking lot repair and maintenance.

We continue to work on the safety of our students. Last school year we had our local sheriff department conduct drills and assess our safety levels. We also had a safety team from Idaho state conduct a safety evaluation of our schools. The result showed that we have a very safe facility with the exception of needing a single point of entry in the elementary school.

In May of 2013 we included in our levy the request for money to address safety. We used that money to replace windows in the high school classrooms with wired glass (spring 2014) and we installed doors in the entry of the elementary school this summer to allow for a single point of entry. What this means for the elementary school, is that visitors will need to check into the elementary school office before they have access to the hallways and classrooms. This allows for our staff to know who is in the building at all times.

For the upcoming school year we will have Dr. Matthew Wappett provide professional development to our staff and students. He will work with our staff and students regarding compassionate education and managing stress throughout the school year. We can all use training and reminders on how to treat each other with compassion and we can always be reminded of ways to reduce stress for ourselves and our students, especially with the constant demands made on our staff and students in this day and time. Dr. Wappett comes highly recommended to us by professionals who are familiar with his work. The Idaho State Department of Education will be providing the funds for Dr. Wappett's services.

Thank you for your continued support of Troy School District!