

General Quarters

Salem Central School

2/6/2020

Edition 2, Volume 6

Black History Month

It's great to see the beginnings of our work on Black History month. If you are doing something in your classroom, please be sure to share it with your principal so we can get this out onto our social media and website. While the work in the classroom is the focus, it is important that we share this work with the community so they know we are making a conscious effort in celebrating the month. The size of the project doesn't matter either. Every little bit is important for our students to learn and our community to know the work we are doing.

Planning

Schools have a lot of planning to accomplish that requires a lot of people to make happen. Please see the summary below of the work that's been done, or will start soon, on our various plans:

- CSE – We completed the initial review. Now we are working on current resources and services and setting goals.
- PDP – This has been updated based on BLPTs feedback, compared to district and building goals to ensure the plan properly supports those goals. Next step is to ensure it supports the CSE Plan.
- Shared Decision Making– We are working through the original plan, looking at including more people into the groups, and determining how the district group will work with the BLPTs that have been functioning over the past few years. Next step is meetings with BLPTs on how the groups work together.
- Safety– The group completed a self-audit with the help of Micki Jones' office. We're now working on how to incorporate the "Hide, Run, Fight" protocol and get the document ready

In this Newsletter...

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Copyright Laws are Real!

Please take a moment and see the story below about a movie viewed as a fundraiser on CNN:

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/04/us/lion-king-elementary-school-250-trnd/index.html>

for next year. We also plan on having our first 'table-top' exercise where we will role play a drill this spring.

- Code of Conduct work will be starting soon with goal of approval by July.

Thank you to everyone involved in one or more of these activities, and the ones that are not listed. Only together are we able to get this work done and we appreciate your efforts in making it happen.

Budget Update

We received the executive run of the state budget. This is the preliminary number that we get in determining the amount of state aid we might receive for the upcoming school year. On its surface, the number looks good as the funding is 5% higher than last year. However, the devil is in the details as the way the governor's office is structuring the aid looks to limit the amount of expenditure aid that we receive. Basically, he's making expense-base aids a part of the foundation aid in an effort to limit how much aid is given to schools who utilize expense-based aids the most (like us).

As a reminder, expenditure aid is the money we get based on what we spend. The most notable, and the place where we get the most expense aid from, is BOCES aid and transportation aid. Foundation aid is the money given to the district to help fund the work we do. There are other categorical aids, like textbook aid, that is based on a student per capita. Special education aids are in a separate category and dependent on additional factors that determine the aid we receive. A comparison between last year and this year is below.

	2019-2020	2020-2021	Difference
Foundation Aid	\$ 5,563,601.00	\$ 6,468,333.00	\$ 904,732.00
BOCES	\$ 502,904.00		\$ (502,904.00)
High Tax Aid	\$ 127,523.00		\$ (127,523.00)
Special Services	\$ -		\$ -
Charter School Transitional	\$ -		\$ -
Hardware & Technology	\$ 6,741.00		\$ (6,741.00)
Software, Library, Textbook	\$ 24,581.00		\$ (24,581.00)
Supplemental Public Excess Cost	\$ -		\$ -
Academic Enhancement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Full Day K	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
UPK			\$ -
High Cost Excess	\$ 150,548.00	\$ 132,935.00	\$ (17,613.00)
Private Excess	\$ 35,537.00	\$ 35,477.00	\$ (60.00)
Transportation	\$ 768,046.00	\$ 864,182.00	\$ 96,136.00
Building	\$ 193,240.00	\$ 252,946.00	\$ 59,706.00
Reorganization Incentive	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 7,372,721.00	\$ 7,753,873.00	\$ 381,152.00
Community Schools	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00

This is only the beginning of budget season. There's a great deal of lobbying and politicking that will happen between now and the end of March. The state budget is due by April 1st. We've already started to work on this year's budget. The preliminary expenditure budget was discussed at the last board meeting. You may find the presentation [here](#).

Slogan

Thank you to those who participated in the school slogan survey. It is still open and available for your input. Please take some time to add your thoughts and those of your students. Then document link may be found [here](#).

Building Project Update

The bid opening has been pushed back to February 10th. The main reason for the delay is the level of interest in our project. This is a good thing as the more interest there is in the project, the better chances we have in keeping costs down in the overall project.

Once the bids are opened, they are reviewed by our architect and construction manager. Final bids are sent to the Board for their approval. Once approved, we start the planning process for the project to begin. Please anticipate some meetings and conversation to be starting soon about the impact on our operations this spring and next school year.

Ruby Bridges

Ruby Bridges turned 65 years old this year. Nearly sixty years ago, she was the first African American student to attend an all-white elementary school in the South. The link below is to a YouTube video from CSPAN where Ms. Bridges is telling her story to a group of students in 1999. I didn't review the whole video; however, here are a couple of points to help for classroom viewing. The times aren't exact.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aH6bp1K0ohU>

- 0:00-8:00 Context leading up to Ruby going to school
- 8:00 – 17:00 Going to school and community reaction
- 17:00- 19:00 Meeting the teacher

The video goes on from there about her experiences. There is a movie about her experiences (1998) and she wrote a book about her experiences also in 1999.

Her story isn't from the 1800s but something that still has connection to our lives. All of our students know (or should know) someone who is in their 60s. It's important that students understand that connection. Here are some additional links about her part in American History:

<https://www.biography.com/activist/ruby-bridges>

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/ruby-bridges>

<https://www.nps.gov/people/rubybridges.htm>

Please use this information if you find it helpful!

Joint-Faculty Meeting Calendar

Date	Time	Topic	Presenter
September 30, 2019	2:35	Sexual Harassment	BOCES Staff
October 28, 2019	2:35	Safety: Incident Prevention and Response	NYS Troopers
November 25, 2019	2:35	Mental Health/Suicide Prevention	Washington County Council of Prevention
December	NO	MEETING	BREAK
January 27, 2020	2:35	Technology Training – new computers	BOCES Staff
February 24, 2020	2:35	Restorative Justice	TBD
March 30, 2020	2:35	State Testing Administration	BOCES Staff
April 27, 2020	2:35	Restorative Justice	TBD
May	NO	MEETING	BREAK
June 22, 2020	2:35	Celebrations	Staff