
District Parent Announcements - November 2013

October Board Meeting Action Summary

Approved the agenda as presented.

Approved the minutes from the September 25, 2013 regular meeting as presented.

Approved the bills, financial statements, and activity funds.

Approved the annual applications for the recognition of Southeastern Elementary and Southeastern Junior/Senior High School.

Approved the following board policy as presented: 4:110 - Transportation.

Approved the employment of Keela Whewell in the position of volunteer junior high and high school science club sponsor the 2013-2014 school year.

Moved into closed session at 7:42 p.m.

Voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

November School Calendar

11	Monday	Veterans Day - No School
26	Tuesday	Early Dismissal @ 12:00 - School Improvement Day
27	Wednesday	Thanksgiving Vacation - No School
28	Thursday	Thanksgiving Day - No School
29	Friday	Thanksgiving Vacation - No School

Spectator Conduct Policy

According to our Extracurricular Conduct Code For Participants, Parents, and Spectators, "any fans, including adult fans, who behave in an inappropriate manner or who are ejected from an event by a game official/judge during Southeastern School athletic or extracurricular activity, whether the activity is home or away, will be denied admission to, and participation in, extracurricular activities or school events. The penalty for the offense could result in additional days depending on the severity of the incident:

- First Offense: 30 day suspension from all extracurricular activities.
- Second Offense: 12 month suspension from all extracurricular activities.

Transportation

At the October 28, 2013 board meeting, the Board of Education amended transportation policy 4:110. Due to liability issues and the mileage restrictions on leased buses, the Board of Education voted 6-0 to add the following clause: "Only school district employees may operate district-owned transportation vehicles.

Passengers transported in district-owned vehicles are limited to those students, student employees, and approved chaperones who are directly involved in the activity for which transportation is being provided.

Generally, district-owned vehicles may not be used by, or rented to, the public or community groups. However, local, state, and federal emergency agencies may use district-owned vehicles during a declared emergency.

District-owned vehicles may also be loaned to a neighboring school district in an emergency for a short period of time."

Coach Tim Kerr - 400 Volleyball Wins

Coach Kerr, a 1991 graduate of Southeastern High School, started coaching volleyball at Southeastern in 1997.

On September 7, 2013 vs Camp Point Central, Coach Kerr recorded his 400th win. He has accumulated 400 wins in 16 years. This is an average of 25 wins per season. Coach Kerr has won 70% of his games during those 16 years and he has done it with class, humor, innovation, and he has done it well. Congratulations to Coach Tim Kerr.

Breakfast Reminder

Southeastern 337 does offer breakfast to students in both buildings each morning. Please have your child take advantage. Thank you.

Where Are They Now?

John Mark Sowder

- High School: Graduated from Southeastern High School in 1992.
- Current Job Title: Head of Engineering Access Point R&D, Nokia Solutions and Networks.
- Education: BS Computer Engineering U of Illinois, MS Electrical Engineering, University of Illinois, Masters of Business Administration - Finance, DePaul University.
- Job Summary: Lead a team of 50 Software and Hardware Engineers, Test Engineers, and Projects Managers across the US, India, and Taiwan to create residential and Enterprise Femto Access Points.
- Parents: John and Donna Sowder of Bowen.

Jamie Knorr

- High School: Graduated from Southeastern High School in 2008.
- Education: Received her bachelor of human biology and doctor of chiropractic from Logan University.
- Awards: Graduated Cum Laude; Department of Radiology Award of Excellence; Who's Who among Students in American Universities & Colleges; LEEP Mentoring Program.
- Parents: Bryan and Lisa Knorr of West Point.

Open Extra-Curricular Position

Southeastern Community Unit School District # 337 has the following open position for the 2013-2014 school year: Assistant 5/6 Boys Basketball. If you are interested, please contact me at shsprin@southeastern337.com. Thank you. - Todd Fox.

Out of District Tuition Rate

The out of district tuition rate is established by the ISBE based on the district's actual expenditures for the previous year. This is known as the per capita tuition cost. The rate is found on the school district's annual financial report (AFR). Based on the FY2013 AFR, our tuition rate is \$8,196.88.

School Finances - Quick Facts

We are 25% into the fiscal year. We have received 52% of our budgeted revenue and have spent 28% of our budgeted expenditures. The state of Illinois owes us \$167,750. Our September payroll was \$201,618. Our fiscal year 2014 budget predicts a deficit of 504,341. Our current fund balance is \$4,577,441.

District Website

Please utilize the district website. The address is www.southeastern337.com. You can find all forms needed (interactive), district parent announcements, board meeting minutes, school calendar, sports schedules, etc.

Residency Requirements

A child is entitled to tuition-free enrollment in the school district wherein he resides. Residency, in this context, has a specific meaning in the law. A child is presumed to be a resident of the school district wherein the persons who have legal custody of him reside. After a divorce, a child is presumed to reside with the custodial parent. A school district has a duty to charge tuition to nonresident pupils. Residence is a physical presence with an intention to remain on a permanent basis. If a student becomes non-resident during a school term, the child must be permitted to attend school in the school district in which the child was originally enrolled and cannot be charged tuition for the remainder of the school term in which the child became non-resident.

My Two Cents on the Common Core Standards

The Common Core Standards are just that, standards, not curriculum. Many judge the standards without actually ever examining the standards or even looking at them. Please review them. At this time, there are Common Core Standards for English and Math. That is it. However, Common Core Standards for science are currently being developed. More than 40 states have adopted the Common Core Standards; however, a few states are questioning this decision. The Common Core Standards set high, clear, and uniform standards to prepare students for college and the work force. The Common Core Standards emphasize critical thinking and content mastery. In English, the Common Core Standards stress the importance of reading nonfiction, using evidence to back claims, and expanding academic vocabulary. In Math, the Common Core Standards call for a greater focus on fewer topics so that students gain a more comprehensive understanding of key concepts. There is also a more concentrated focus on solving math problems related to life experiences. Curriculum and implementation decisions will remain, like always, a local decision. Teachers will continue making daily instructional decisions. Personally, I do not find the Common Core Standards controversial, and I believe most people would not find them controversial. They should be read before making a decision. However, the curriculum some teachers or school districts use to teach the standards might be considered controversial. It is important to differentiate between the standards and the curriculum used to teach the standards. In a time when our students need us more than ever, it feels like we could not be further away from them. Everyone (school districts, legislatures, and state board) is working very hard to improve education and most have great intentions.

But our educational plates are full. Every time we have something added to our plate, which seems to be all of the time and even though it is "research based," it takes us further away from students. That is the reality of it. The Common Core Standards are just one more thing added to our educational plates. At this stage of the game, less is more. We are losing local control of our school districts. The government (federal and state) is mandating, regulating, and dictating more and more to local school districts. In my opinion, this is not healthy nor the intent of both the United States and Illinois Constitutions. Illinois has adopted the Common Core Standards. Our students will be assessed on the Common Core Standards. Therefore, we will make the transition and have made the transition to the new learning standards.

D. Todd Fox

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