

Southeastern CUSD # 337  
Parent Announcements  
April 1, 2017  
D. Todd Fox, Superintendent  
[www.southeastern337.com](http://www.southeastern337.com)

### **End of the Year Dates**

Friday, May 26, 2017 = Teacher Institute # 4. (Subject to Change).  
Thursday, May 25, 2017 = Last Day of Student Attendance. 2:05 Dismissal. (Subject to Change).  
Wednesday, May 24, 2017 = 2:05 Dismissal. (Subject to Change).  
Sunday, May 21, 2017 = High School Graduation. 2:00.  
Friday, May 19, 2017 = High School Awards Day. 8:30.

### **County School Facilities Tax**

What is the County School Facility Occupation Tax? A 1% sales tax on the same general merchandise base as the state sales tax.

Are there any kinds of sales that are not subject to this tax? Yes

1. Licensed and titled vehicles.
2. Boats and RVs.
3. Unprepared food intended for home consumption.
4. Drugs, including vitamins and over the counter medications.
5. Farm equipment parts, and inputs like fertilizer and seed.

How many counties in Illinois have passed the County School Facility Occupation Tax? 47 of 102.

How can this sales tax be spent? On school facilities only.

1. Pay for approved facility needs on a pay as you go basis.
2. Accumulate funds for future building or facility improvement projects.
3. Issue bonds to pay for facility improvements.
4. Abate taxes on bonds issued for the facility improvements.
5. Any combination of the above.
6. Interest earned on monies in the County School Facility Occupation Tax may be transferred to the education and building funds.

What can this sales tax not be spent on?

1. Buses, trucks, mowers, etc.
2. Computers.
3. Salaries, benefits, utilities, supplies, etc.

Is voter approval needed?  
Yes. Majority vote required.

What steps must be taken to establish this tax?

1. Resolution by school district boards that represent more than 50% of the student enrollment within the county.
2. Placed on ballot by the regional office.
3. Majority of the electors voting on the proposition vote in favor of it.

What counties in our school district currently impose this tax? Schuyler (passed in April 2009) and McDonough (passed in November 2016).

Will this issue be on the April 2017 ballot for Hancock County? Yes. All county school boards passed the resolution (with the exception of Southeastern); therefore, the 50% requirement has been met, and the issue will be on the April 2017 ballot.

If approved, will the tax apply to businesses, etc. in our school district since the Southeastern Board of Education did not pass a resolution? Yes. It still applies AND the school district will receive the generated revenue.

What is the estimated amount of revenue for Southeastern from the county facilities tax in Hancock County? \$113,178 per year.

What would this money be used for?

1. Air conditioning for the Bowen building.
2. Locker room and gym upgrades in the Augusta building.
3. Roof improvements for the Bowen building.

Why did the Southeastern Board of Education not pass a resolution? After a high level of discussion on the issue at multiple board meetings (see board agendas), a motion was not made to pass a resolution. Why? This sales tax makes sense on a lot of levels and the benefits to our school district are undeniable. But, when it came down to passing a resolution, the following combination of factors played a role in no motion being made.

1. New high school facility.
2. We have no debt.
3. Property tax reduction cannot be guaranteed.
4. Did not pass resolutions for Schuyler and McDonough.
5. Obligation and responsibility to our taxpayers.
6. Future tax increases could potentially be necessary.

What will the issue look like on the April ballot? *"Shall a retailers' occupation tax and a service occupation tax (commonly referred to as a 'sales tax') be imposed in The County of Hancock, Illinois, at a rate of 1% to be used exclusively for school facility purposes."*

### **School Board Election 2017**

The 2017 board election will be April 4, 2017. Board elections are held on the first Tuesday in April of odd-numbered years (2015, 2017, 2019, etc). We have six candidates running for four spots. Each township can have a maximum of three board members. We have 10 townships: Keene, Birmingham, St. Albans, St. Mary's, Hancock, Huntsville, Northeast, Lamoine, Augusta, Chili. This will not come into play in this election. Therefore, the top four will be elected to the 2017 board of education. The candidates are Todd Bolton, Steve Bruenger, Ian O'Neal, Jeremy Stephens, Greg Tippey, and Mark Winters. As stated above, the board election will be April 4, 2017. The board must seat its new members within 28 days of the election (May 2, 2017). However, the county clerks have 21 days following the election to provide us with an abstract of votes (April 25, 2017). The abstract of votes is the official notification to the school district of the election winners. Therefore, we will have between April 25, 2017 and May 2, 2017 to seat the new board. Here is our regular board meeting schedule: April 24 = Regular Board Meeting (April). May 15 = Regular Board Meeting (May).

Therefore, we will have a special board meeting on Monday, May 1, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. to seat the new board. At this meeting, we will honor those board members leaving, seat the new board, elect new board officers, set board meeting dates, review board member expectations, and set committee assignments.

### **Sports Cooperatives with Camp Point Central**

In May of 2016, I went to the Central Board and asked them if they would consider the possibility of expanding high school cooperative sports agreements between the two school districts (we currently coop high school girls basketball, junior high and high school wrestling, and high school track). The number of student-athletes participating in almost all sports is dwindling. This is the case in many schools and is the reason you see more and more cooperatives and consolidations. We feel it is important to be proactive and visionary as we continue to provide quality opportunities for our young people. However, no final decisions on our end have been made. We simply wanted to know if Central was interested in possibly expanding cooperative sports agreements between the two school districts in the future. We have cooperated with Central every step of the way the past ten months as they have contemplated this very difficult decision. With that said, there have been no final decisions made by Southeastern.

### **Overdue Payments**

Please take care of all overdue payments to the school district by April 13, 2017. The lunch program operates as a debit account. Not a credit account. Meals must be paid for before your child eats. Individual letters will be sent out on April 1, 2017. Please take care of this. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

### **Congratulations to John Cramsey**

Congratulations to John Cramsey. John is a senior at Southeastern High School and is the son of Patrick and Ann Cramsey of Bowen, Illinois. John's science project (Wavelength Dependence of Light-Activated Transformation of Carbon Dioxide at Copper Oxide Electrodes) advanced to the International Science Fair in Los Angeles, California. John's science club sponsor is Mr. Chris Foster. This is the the third year in a row that John has advanced to Internationals.

### **Retirements**

The following staff members are retiring at the end of this school year. Please take the time to thank these dedicated educators:

- Nancy Akers. 28 years. Elementary Principal.
- Teresa Ballas. 25 years. Elementary Secretary.
- Teresa Wood. 25 years. Elementary Cook.

### **Easter Break**

Wednesday, April 12 = Full Day of Student Attendance.  
Thursday, April 13 = No School / Teacher Institute # 3 (8:00-12:00).  
Friday, April 14 = No School.  
Saturday, April 15 = No School.  
Sunday, April 16 = No School.  
Monday, April 17 = No School.  
Tuesday, April 18 = Students Return to School.

### **Something for All Of Us to Think About**

"You know what makes me sick to my stomach? When I hear grown people say that kids have changed. Kids haven't changed. Kids don't know anything about anything. We've changed as adults. We demand less of

kids. We expect less of kids. We make their lives easier instead of preparing them for what life is truly about. We're the ones that have changed" - Frank Martin, Head Coach Basketball of South Carolina University.