

Southeastern CUSD # 337
Parent Announcements
May 1, 2017
D. Todd Fox, Superintendent
www.southeastern337.com

Mrs. Nancy Akers

Please take the time to thank, honor, and recognize Mrs. Nancy Akers. Mrs. Akers will be retiring on June 30, 2017. Mrs. Akers has been employed by the Southeastern School District for the past 28 years. She has spent 18 of those years as the principal of the elementary. During those 18 years, she led the reorganization of the elementary building in 2008, oversaw our award-winning early childhood program, worked with teachers to keep our test scores above state average despite dramatic demographic and assessment changes, spearheaded the implementation of technology throughout the entire district, was a champion for all of her students, and was a key advisor/advocate/friend of our current superintendent. Please take the time to thank, honor, and recognize Mrs. Nancy Akers.

Backpack Snack Program

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Bowen Christian Church for sponsoring the Backpack Snack program this year. A special thank you to Sue Henry, Tecia Lantz, and our staff members for providing the elbow grease to make this invaluable program work. This program serves 100 of our students each distribution date. And at the end of the school year, the program will have distributed backpack snacks 19 times. Amazing! If you are a parent of one of the students who receive backpack snacks, please take the opportunity to say thank you.

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.

School Calendar (Start of Next School Year)

Wednesday, August 23 = Teacher Institute Day # 1
Thursday, August 24 = Teacher Institute Day # 2
Friday, August 25 = First Day of Student Attendance

School Board Election 2017

Congratulations to the newly elected school board members: Steve Bruenger, Ian O'Neal, Greg Tippey, and Mark Winters. They took the oath of office on Monday, May 1, 2017. A special thank you to outgoing board members Mark Cox (8 years), Rick Ramsey (12 years), and Jeremy Stephens (4 years) for the years of service and commitment to Southeastern Community Unit School District # 337. They, without a doubt, left our school district in a much better place than when they started. The new board president is John Eilers. The new board vice president is Steve Bruenger. The new board secretary is Bobbi Smith.

Backpack Project

The Living Faith United Methodist Church in Bowen will conduct the Backpack Project on Sunday, August 6, 2017. The time will be 2:00 PM. This provides book bags and basic school supplies to students free of charge.

Sports Cooperatives with Camp Point Central

In April 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.

I received an email from Central Superintendent Marty Cook on April 24, 2017. The email indicated that the Central School District is not interested in expanding cooperative opportunities between the two school districts, but want to keep the existing cooperative agreements in place.

Overdue Payments

Please take care of all overdue payments to the school district. The lunch program operates as a debit account. Not a credit account. Meals must be paid for before your child eats. Please take care of this. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Importance of Attendance

Nothing is more important than the education of your child. And attendance at school is a vital part of your child's success. Our student attendance rate is 95% (which is very good). Our school calendar is provided to our community months in advance. What am I getting at? I understand emergencies, but taking your children out of school for vacations, trips, etc. hurts your child's education and nothing is more important than the education of your child. There is no way collecting homework for the week can replace the educational value of being in class with their teacher.

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.

- Karol Mehaffy. 11 years. High School Cook.

Open Certified Positions 2017-2018

Southeastern Community Unit School District # 337 has the following open positions for the 2017-2018 school year: Elementary Teacher (Grades K-6) and Junior/Senior High Special Education (Grades 7-12). If interested, please e-mail the following information to districtoffice@southeastern337.com no later than Friday, May 19:

1. Completed employment application (www.southeastern337.com). 2. Resume. 3. Educator License.

Open Non-Certified Positions 2017-2018

Southeastern Community Unit School District # 337 has the following open position for the 2017-2018 school year: Elementary Secretary (K-6). If interested, please e-mail the following information to districtoffice@southeastern337.com no later than Friday, May 19: 1. Completed employment application (www.southeastern337.com). 2. Resume.

New Elementary Principal

On March 27, 2017, the board of education hired Tecia Lantz in the position of elementary principal for the 2017-2018 school year. Mrs. Lantz's teaching experience includes stops in Unity, Central, and Southeastern. Mrs. Lantz is currently a second grade teacher for the Southeastern School District. She is a 1996 graduate of Southeastern High School.

Immunizations 2017-2018 (Next Year)

According to state law, every student must meet all vaccination requirements by October 15, 2017. According to state law, students who do not meet these requirements must be suspended from school. There are only two acceptable exceptions. The first acceptable exception is based on a medical reason. This must be written by a healthcare provider and it is through the Illinois Department of Health. The second acceptable exception is based on a religious reason. This must be written by a healthcare provider and it is through the Illinois Department of Health. Therefore, students will be suspended from school beginning October 16, 2017 unless they have: 1) provided proof of required immunizations, 2) provided written proof of medical exception through the IDPH, or 3) provided written proof of religious exception through the IDPH.

Fix the Formula Rally in Quincy

Below you will find my speech given at the April 17, 2017 Fix the Formula Rally. Once again, these are my speech notes. "My name is Todd Fox. I am the superintendent of the Southeastern School District. A school district of 524 students, 277 square miles, and a low-income rate of 61%. And every single day and every single year our students and our teachers overcome, overachieve, and knock it out of the park. We produce an amazing product. Thank you for this opportunity today. There are three quick points I would like to share. 1. Our school district's demographics have changed....and are changing. Most school districts in west central Illinois are in this same boat. The number of low-income students is increasing. The social-emotional needs of our students are not being met outside of the school. Our schools are changing...because society is changing. And our young people need us more...than ever before. We are being asked to do more and more with less and less every year...and we have stepped up and done just that. But, we are at a breaking point. There is a costly price tag that comes with the resources needed to properly educate low-income, social-emotional, and special needs students. Not providing these students with what they need to be successful is not an option for...any of us here. So what do we do? We are forced to cut the resources of other students...with other needs. That is

the reality of what is going on...because A) the state is not paying its bills and B) because of the current unfair funding formula. This is not acceptable. Every child...should count. 2. Our Financial Numbers. We operate on a \$5.5 million dollar budget. Since 2008, we have lost almost \$2 million in state aid...a combination of general state aid and mandated categoricals. General state aid is being fully funded this year...which is awesome...but we have yet to receive a 2016-2017 mandated categorical payment. In reality, we are in worse shape this April than last April. The state owes us over \$300,000. Most of this is in transportation (277 square miles) and special education (24% of our students have an IEP). Because we legally cannot end the fiscal year in a deficit in any fund, we are having to make hard choices by transferring money from one fund to another to make things work. This past week we received our 2017 Annual Financial Profile. It is our financial report card. We received 3.55. Financial Recognition. Only because we have no short term or long term debt. There could not be a more deceiving number. Some would say we are in good financial shape or that Illinois school districts are not hurting quite a bad as they say. Our Annual Financial Profile is solid, but it is solid at the expense of our students. This is not acceptable. Every child...should count. 3. There is an answer to all of this...the evidence-based funding formula. This new model. This new way of looking at school funding. Would ensure that every child counts. It is fair. It is equitable. It is everything our current model is not. Is it perfect? No. Perfect is the enemy of very good. And the evidence-based model is very good. And it makes every child count. And that...is...what this business...is all about. Thank you for your time."

Board Meeting Dates

Day	Date	Time	Location
Monday	May 15, 2017	6:30 p.m.	District Office
Monday	June 26, 2017	6:30 p.m.	District Office
Monday	July 24, 2017	6:30 p.m.	District Office
Monday	August 28, 2017	6:30 p.m.	District Office
Wednesday	September 27, 2017	6:30 p.m.	District Office
Monday	October 23, 2017	6:30 p.m.	District Office
Monday	November 27, 2017	6:30 p.m.	District Office
Monday	December 18, 2017	6:30 p.m.	District Office

Monday	January 22, 2018	6:30 p.m.	District Office
Monday	February 26, 2018	6:30 p.m.	District Office
Monday	March 26, 2018	6:30 p.m.	District Office
Monday	April 23, 2018	6:30 p.m.	District Office
Monday	May 14, 2018	6:30 p.m.	District Office
Monday	June 25, 2018	6:30 p.m.	District Office