

1. **Christmas Concert.** I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their professionalism, classiness, and behavior during our December Christmas Concerts. We received several positive compliments. This is a tribute to our staff, students, and parents.
2. **School Finances.** Where are we at – as of November 30, 2011 (42% into FY2012)?
 - The state of Illinois owes the Southeastern School District approximately \$227,251.91 for FY2012.
 - The district has received 63% of its budgeted revenue.
 - The district has spent 43% of its budgeted expenditures.
 - The school district has received \$3,297,072 in revenue and spent \$2,365,467 in expenditures. The transportation fund is already running in a deficit for FY2012.
3. **Enrollment.** The current district enrollment is 565 students. The enrollment in 2010 was 566. The enrollment in 2007 was 556.
4. **New Seat Belt Law in 2012.** As of January 1, 2012, adults riding in the back seat of a vehicle must be buckled up. House Bill 219 states that failure to comply with the new law could result in a fine of up to \$25. Therefore, all passengers must be buckled up – regardless of age or seat location. Illinois is the 26th state to approve such a law.
5. **Retirements.** Please take the opportunity to say thank you to two of Southeastern's finest. Mrs. Judy Flesner and Mrs. Janet Hopper will be retiring at the end of the 2011-2012 school year. Mrs. Flesner (Title I Director) and Mrs. Hopper (High School English) have inspired and motivated students for over 20 years. Their contribution to the quality of education provided by our school district is immeasurable. You can contact Mrs. Flesner at jflesner@southeastern337.com and Mrs. Hopper at jhopper@southeastern337.com.
6. **School Website.** Please take a minute to browse the district website at www.southeastern337.com. You will find very useful information – such as Monthly Activity Calendar, Sports Schedules, Lumen Parent Portal Link, Menus, Board Meeting Information, etc.
7. **Free and Reduced Lunch Applications.** Reminder: If for some reason your income changes and you make less money during the school year, you are allowed to complete a free and reduced lunch application at any point during the school year. For example, you completed an application at the beginning of the school year and did not qualify; however, your income changes during the school year so you are allowed to reapply and see if you qualify. Please contact the district office and we will take care of you. The district phone number is 217.392.2172.
8. **2:00 Dismissal.** When we have a 1:00 dismissal, our elementary pick-up students are dismissed at 1:00. However, when we have a 2:00 dismissal, our elementary pick-up students are dismissed at 2:15. Why? Due to the number of instructional minutes required at the junior/senior high school (state law), students are required to attend school until 2:15. Therefore, our 2:00 dismissal should actually be called a 2:15 dismissal. Thank you for your understanding and adjustment.

9. **Sportsmanship Award.** Southeastern received the Sportsmanship Award at the Mississippi Valley Invitational Tourney (MVIT) over Christmas Break. This is the Christmas tournament our boys basketball team participates in. Congratulations to our players, cheerleaders, and parents.

10. **EAV and Tax Rate History.**

Year	EAV	Tax Rate
2003	30,950,289	4.2239
2004	31,134,713	4.3463
2005	30,584,462	4.4329
2006	33,559,431	4.1746
2007	33,829,705	4.4625
2008	36,506,045	4.3491
2009	40,910,655	4.0712
2010	42,958,779	4.3600

11. **Education Reform Act.**

- A. There are two different bills. Senate bill 315, also known as Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA), was passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor in January of 2010. It addresses:
- That teachers and principals will be evaluated in a new way that incorporates student growth as a significant factor in the evaluation ratings. This must be in place by September 1, 2016.
 - That teachers and principals will be rated in one of four categories: Excellent, Proficient, Needs Improvement, and Unsatisfactory. This must be in place by September 1, 2012.
- B. The second bill is Senate bill 7, also known as the Education Reform Bill. It was signed by the Governor on June of 2011. It addresses:
- Requirements for the filling of new and vacant positions.
 - Acquisition of tenure.
 - The process used in the reduction in force and recall rights.
 - The system for the dismissal of tenured teachers.
 - Required school board member trainings.
 - Processes related to collective bargaining and the right to strike.
- C. We will be spending the next 5-6 years implementing Senate bill 315 and Senate bill 7. This is going to be a process – a long process which will mean many long hours for both administrators and teachers. There are so many unanswered questions and it is important we take this one step at a time. It is important we keep this process simple and manageable – as not to lose the true benefit of the law.
- D. Where are we at right now? We have taken step # 1 and have formed the required joint committee. In a nutshell, the old seniority system is abolished. The new rules require teachers to be placed in one of four groups (with group one to be the first dismissed and group four the last to be dismissed). Group one consists of non-tenured teachers who

have not yet been evaluated. A teacher's placement in group two, three, or four depends on his or her evaluations – with the highest evaluated teachers being placed in group four. These new rules for dismissals and recalls are effective immediately and apply where the notice of dismissal is given during the current (2011-2012) school year. This is only for the reduction in force process. The Joint Committee is working on the details and must have a final decision by February 1, 2012. Many smaller school districts are agreeing to stay with the current law and not make changes.