

Superintendent News – November

It is hard to believe that the first quarter is already over and the Fall season is coming to an end. As we move into the winter months, I truly enjoy snow, but not the massive storms that we have encountered over the past couple of years. If we do have snow or ice, and there is a need to cancel or delay the start of school, we will use the district calling system to notify parents, post the changes on the district website and announce the changes on WREX TV, WTVO, WIFR, WCCI, and all the big Radio stations.

Parent teacher conferences were held on November 3 and 4. Thank you to all who attended as these conferences are very important for parents to get to know their children's teachers as well as seeing first hand how your children are doing. To provide a great education requires parents, teachers, and students to be actively involved. This partnership is vital to maintaining open communication and aide in the success of our children. If at any time you would like to contact your child's teacher, please feel free to do so as we encourage this open communication.

The financial difficulty that the State of Illinois is presently going through has affected all schools throughout the State. Schools have mandates that we must comply with, yet the State has elected to not fully fund these or in some cases not fund them at all. Presently the State of Illinois is behind in payments to Pearl City amounting to \$85,500. You may have also heard of other major issues that could directly affect education and still being discussed in the Fall Veto Session by the General Assembly. These include the funding for the regional superintendents, changes in PTELL or property tax limitations, Pension Reform, and the State Budget. Some of the educational reductions that the Governor eliminated or reduced in the original budget are being reconsidered by the General Assembly in this fall veto session. Even if these are reinstated, will the State make good on their obligations? Even if they do reinstate the funding, where is the funding coming from? The answers to these questions could directly affect the funding for each local district? I could go on and on. Of course these are only the educational concerns and many of you are facing similar reductions in the private sector as well. Good luck to all of us.

As always, my door is open and welcome feedback at any time. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like further details on anything regarding our school.

Tim Thill
Superintendent, Pearl City Schools