

PRAIRIE CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT
SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 8

605 N. Seventh Street
Fairbury, Illinois 61739
Dr. John C. Capasso, Superintendent
Telephone (815) 692-2504
Fax (815) 692-3195

2011-2012 Board Goals – PENDING BOARD APPROVAL
(Carry-Over/On-Going in Blue)
(New/New Emphasis in Red)

Goal 1 Academic Performance/Discipline/Students

- a) **Improve K-6 reading skills as tracked through ISEL and DIBELS**
- b) Achieve, minimally, an “Adequate Yearly Progress” designation **in all tested disciplines and demographic groupings**
 - i. **Develop instructional strategies for effective ISAT/PSAE/ACT preparation**
 - ii. Continue to develop and refine programs to enhance reading **[and math]** skills and the ISAT/PSAE/ACT performance of IEP, economically disadvantaged, minority, **[and ESL]** students
 - iii. **Prepare for Common Core Assessments**
 - iv. Explore strategies to encourage the maximum effort of all tested students
- c) Through such interventions as Response to Intervention (RtI), reduce special education placements
- d) Strive to achieve equity of services in parallel attendance centers
- e) **Consider “attendance centers” for purposes of efficiency, balance, and equity**
- f) Improve **student attendance**
 - i. Improve attendance rate by 2-3% in grades K-8 and 5% in grades 9-12
- g) **Continue to evaluate PCHS’s Block-4 schedule**
- h) Reduce the number of drop-outs
- i) Reduce the number of home-school applications
- j) Continue to refine portfolio system for assessment
- k) Continue to promote advanced placement, dual credit, virtual high school, and distance learning at PCHS
- l) Utilize/expand the services of Parkland Junior College and Heartland Community College
 - i. **Expand dual credit at PCHS to associate degree equivalency**
- m) Reduce disciplinary incidents on buses
- n) Reduce the number of alternative school applications
 - i. Of those who are enrolled, increase the percentage of alternative school students who graduate, earn GED’s, or remain in the program to 75
- o) Continue the endeavor to return students to LEA schools from out-of-district placements when appropriate
- p) Continue to execute technology implementation schedule
 - i. Expand STI-Home to include K-4 information, and homework information for all grades
- q) Train staff in teaching the low-achieving, at-risk student
- r) Continue to foster collaboration through department/grade instructional level meetings
 - i. Articulate curriculum K-12 horizontally and vertically
- s) Examine student readiness for college mathematics through discussions of curriculum articulation, teaching material upgrades, and staff development
- t) Endeavor to develop in students a sense of ambition and exploration beyond the K-12 experience
- u) **Prepare a report on the feasibility of 1:1 computing**

Goal 2 Finance

- a) Continue long-term financial projections
- b) Determine staffing needs by February

- c) Continue to seek means to increase efficiency
- d) Prepare a budget reduction plan (schedule) for post-incentive era
- e) Monitor tax rate and its impact on citizenry
- f) Monitor assessed value and its impact on district revenues
- g) Keep legislators informed of local issues of school finance
- h) Keep staff informed of local issues of school finance
- i) Obtain competitive grants whenever possible
- j) Analyze enrollment patterns and make enrollment projections
- k) Reduce staff commensurately with declining enrollment and loss of revenue**
- l) Consider “attendance centers” for purposes of efficiency, balance, and equity**
- m) Continue to negotiate collective bargaining agreements that provide employees appropriate wages, hours, and working conditions, yet take into account the district’s financial status
- n) Prepare for conversion of retiring GO bond rates to operating funds and a life-safety bond**
- o) Prepare a “cut” list for the 2012-13 school term, amounting to roughly \$1 Million, in response to reduced general state aid and categorical reimbursement loses (Illinois’ financial crisis)**
- p) Consider amendments to employee retirement incentives, with respect to percentages, years, and ERO**

Goal 3 Facilities/Transportation

- a) Maintain budget program for maintenance projects and bus replacement
- b) Continue joint agreements with Boys and Girls Club, Head Start, Parkland/Heartland
- c) Review options in disposing of the former Chenoa Grade School
- d) Continue to assess technology infrastructure and maintenance needs at all sites
- e) Work toward optimal use of grounds at PCHS and PCJHS
- f) Continue to study the advantages/disadvantages of leasing equipment
- g) Review parking issues, particularly at PCHS and the UE, in terms of space and surface
- h) Consider the issue of air-conditioning
- i) Consider “attendance centers” for purposes of efficiency, balance, and equity**
- j) Recruit new bus drivers
- k) In light of declining enrollment, develop a plan for the reduction of facilities and consolidation of students (building closure, attendance centers)**
- l) Prepare list of life-safety projects for 2-n above, with emphasis on roof systems, boiler burners, and outdoor athletic facilities (PCHS football bleachers, track)**
- m) Alter maintenance assistant job description to include the performance of standard bus maintenance**

Goal 4 Communication/Organization

- a) Continue providing monthly district newsletter, calendar of events, and menu
- b) Utilize technology for communication with parents
- c) Continue to seek ways and means to more efficiently and effectively communicate with staff (i.e. posting of available jobs, payroll/insurance changes, use of web page)
- d) Continue to seek ways and means to more economically, efficiently and effectively communicate with board members (i.e. personnel issues, matters which place board members in awkward positions), bearing in mind new legislation regarding the Open Meetings Act
- e) Seek appropriate channels to effectively communicate the school’s needs to legislators
- f) Continue effective parenting workshops
- g) Survey parents on general effectiveness of school district
- h) Continue 5-year graduate surveys and share results with the Board
- i) Continue, and enhance, volunteer program
- j) Communicate with clubs and organizations in the communities
- k) Revamp approach to student registration (including but not limited to “one-site” registration, use of credit cards, on-line registration)
- l) Explore reorganization possibilities**
- m) Explore more effective ways and means to review and update school board policy manual

n) Communicate to internal and external populations the need for downsizing in staff and facilities and the need for bond conversion

Goal 5 Personnel

- a) Train staff in teaching the low-income, at-risk student
- b) Foster collaboration by establishing means to routinely assess curriculum effectiveness at department/grade instructional level
- c) Continue to seek ways and means to foster staff morale
- d) Formalize teacher mentoring program
- e) **Improve staff attendance**
- f) **Alter evaluation and documentation procedures, and Collective Bargaining Agreement, to comply with PA 97-0008 (SB 7)**

Goal 6 Adult Education

- a) Provide parent time for Discover
- b) Provide adult classes for GED and computers

Goal 7 Community

- a) Continue relationships with local businesses – i.e. job shadowing, ICE, SUE, vocational field trips, building construction fair, health fair, Upper Elementary and Junior High career days, and Upper Elementary business partnerships, with an eye on developing in students a sense of ambition and exploration beyond the K-12 experience
- b) Add local scholarships and review distribution
- c) Improve relations regarding Homecoming and other school issues
- d) Work with other taxing bodies on funding and other issues of mutual concern
- e) Seek support, both financial and moral, from community members and local businesses for drug/alcohol education programs and security enhancement
- f) **Work with city councils and other community organizations to foster growth (industry, housing developments)**
- g) Prepare a district pamphlet with the purpose of extolling the virtues of Prairie Central schools and attracting families with school-aged children to the communities
- h) **Communicate to internal and external populations the need for downsizing in staff and facilities and the need for bond conversion**

DONE OR IN PROGRESS

THE BOARD . . .

- RELOCATED THE PCHS STAGE TO CHENOA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/FORMER HIGH SCHOOL FOR FALL AND SPRING THEATRE PRODUCTIONS, MADRIGALS, AND JAZZ SHOW
- REVISED ESP JOB DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION PROGRAM
- IMPLEMENTED FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN
- RETURNED SIX (6) STUDENTS FROM OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENTS TO LOCAL COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS
- REVIEWED AND FURTHER DEVELOPED THE ALCOHOL/DRUG EDUCATION AND TESTING PROGRAMS
- RESOLVED HEATING CONTROL ISSUES (WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS)
- CLOSED NOON HOUR CAMPUS AT PCHS
- CONVERTED CHENOA HIGH SCHOOL TO CHENOA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, DEMOLISHED OLD CHENOA GRADE, AND SOLD UNNEEDED PROPERTY IN CHENOA
- RELOCATED UNIT, TRANSPORTATION OFFICES TO FAIRBURY (PCHS, WESTVIEW, RESPECTIVELY)
- REFURBISHED THE PCHS GYM (FLOOR, WALLS, LOWER BLEACHERS, ROOF)

- ESTABLISHED PAYROLL NEWSLETTER
- HAS PROVIDED SEVERAL OPTIONS FOR THE GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM: HEALTH SAVINGS, ALTERNATIVE DEDUCTIBLES.
- ESTABLISHED AUTOMATIC PAYROLL DEPOSIT
- EXPANDED AND RESTRUCTURED THE DISTRICT WEB PAGE
- EXECUTED THE FIRST (FIVE-YEAR) TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE
- HAS STEPPED UP ITS EFFORTS TO INFORM STAFF OF SEXUAL HARRASSMENT AND MANDATED REPORTER LAWS AND POLICIES
- CREATED BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OPPORTUNITY IN CHENOA AND HAS PROVIDED FINANCIAL, FACILITY (PROGRAM IN TWO SCHOOLS), AND LOGISTIC (BUSING) FOR THE AREA PROGRAM
- PHASED IN WELLNESS PROGRAM BY PROMOTING HEALTHY FOOD AND DRINK, AND FITNESS AT ALL GRADE LEVELS
- HAS HELD COLLABORATION MEETINGS FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS AND DEPARTMENTS TO ANALYZE TEST PERFORMANCE, DISCUSS EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS NEEDS, AND COORDINATE CURRICULUM DELIVERY
- UPGRADED TECHNOLOGY ACROSS THE DISTRICT FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND STAFF, INTRODUCED “SMART” TECHNOLOGY TO ALL BUILDINGS, EXPANDED TECH SUPPORT, AND CREATED OPPORTUNITIES FOR TECH STAFF DEVELOPMENT
- ANNOUNCED REDUCTIONS OF PERSONNEL AND SERVICES IN OBM TOTALLING TO \$170,000
- ENHANCED THE DISTRICT WEB PAGE TO COMMUNICATE MORE INFORMATION IN A MORE USER-FRIENDLY FORMAT
- INTRODUCED PARENT ACCESS TO STUDENT CLASSROOM INFORMATION (GRADES, HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS, ATTENDANCE, ETC) IN GRADES 5-12 THROUGH THE INTERNET
- EXPERIMENTED SUCCESSFULLY WITH CREDIT CARD PAYMENT OPTION AT REGISTRATION
- BEGAN THE PROCESS OF UPDATING AND STREAMLINING ALL STAFF FORMS
- ESTABLISHED, WITH POSITIVE RESULTS, STI-HOME, A MEANS FOR PARENTS TO ACCESS STUDENT INFORMATION
- BROUGHT AIR-CONDITIONING TO ALL COMPUTER LABS AND EMPLOYEE WORKROOMS
- ESTABLISHED TRANSITION MATHEMATICS AT PCHS
- CREATED A FALL PLAY AT PCHS
- COMPLETED A DISTRICT-WIDE ECONOMY LIGHTING PROGRAM WITH THE USE OF AN ILLINOIS CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT
- PAVED NORTH AND SOUTH STUDENT PARKING LOTS AT PCHS WITH FUNDS GENERATED FROM STUDENT PARKING STICKERS
- PROVIDED A NEW SCOREBOARD FOR INDOOR SPORTS AT PCHS WITH FUNDS GENERATED FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES
- UPGRADED SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE IN ALL BUILDINGS

- IMPLEMENTED EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION (PHONE) SYSTEM
- IMPLEMENTED NEW MATH TEXTBOOK IN GRADES K-6
- WORKED WITH BOOSTERS IN EXPANDING THE PCHS FOOTBALL CONCESSION STAND
- COMPLETED MATHEMATICS SCOPE AND SEQUENCING FOR GRADES K-12
- SAW ALL FOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS EARN IMPROVEMENT OR ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION FROM THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
- UPGRADED REGULAR BUS FLEET AND ADDED AN ACTIVITY VEHICLE
- CREATED A COMPETITIVE DANCE SQUAD AT PCHS
- REDUCED ATTENDANCE AT LIVINGSTON AREA CAREER CENTER TO ONE YEAR (SENIOR)
- IS IN PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING DRUG/ALCOHOL EDUCATION PROGRAM, GRADES 5-7
- IMPLEMENTED A K-12 WRITING CURRICULUM (1-l)
- BEGAN DUAL CREDIT SYSTEM AT PCHS TO OFFER STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE COLLEGE CREDIT BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION (1-n)
- REDUCED DISCIPLINARY INCIDENTS ON BUSES WITH THE USE OF DIGITAL CAMERA TECHNOLOGY (1-0)
- IS IN PROCESS OF REVIEWING AND RENEWING THE FIVE-YEAR TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE (1-s)
- APPROVED THE REPORT OF THE PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AMBITION, A SWEEPING MEASURE TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL
- IS IN PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A DIFFERENTIATION AND ENRICHMENT (FORMERLY "GIFTED AND TALENTED") PROGRAM
- IMPROVED ACTIVITY FUND DEPOSIT AND WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES
- NEGOTIATED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH CHATSWORTH TIF DISTRICT (CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH CHENOA TIF DISTRICT)
- IS IN THE PROCESS OF INSTALLING TOWERS AND NEW RADIOS AT CHATSWORTH, CHENOA, AND PRAIRIE CENTRAL JUNIOR HIGH TO ENHANCE NETWORK SIGNAL
- PROVIDED STAFF REMOTE ACCESS TO E-MAIL
- DEVELOPED AN ALTERNATIVE RECOGNITION TO 8TH GRADE GRADUATION
- DEVELOPED A K-12 WRITING CURRICULUM
- DEVELOPED A K-12 KEYBOARDING CURRICULUM
- REPLACED 8+ PASSENGER VANS (NO LONGER LEGAL) WITH A 14-PASSENGER MULTI-FUNCTIONAL ACTIVITY BUS
- **REVIEWED RANDOM DRUG-TESTING POLICY**
- **PROVIDED REMOTE E-MAIL, STI, AND, ULTIMATELY, DESK TOP ACCESS FOR TEACHERS AND COMPREHENSIVE ACCESS AND RESOURCES FOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF**
- **CONVERTED DISTRICT NEWSLETTER TO ON-LINE VERSION**

