

PRAIRIE CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 8

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**2008-2009 Board Goals**  
**(New in Bold)**

Goal 1 Academic Performance/Discipline/Students

- a) Target K-6 reading at 85% (“Meets” + “Exceeds”)
- b) Target all tested ISAT and PSAE areas at 80% (“Meets” + “Exceeds”)
  - i. Explore strategies to encourage the maximum effort of all tested students
- c) Achieve, minimally, “Adequate Yearly Progress” designation in all tested/demographic areas
  - i. Continue to develop and refine programs to enhance reading skills and the ISAT/PSAE/ACT performance of IEP, economically disadvantaged, and minority students
- d) Through such inventions as Response to Intervention (Rtl), reduce special education placements**
- e) Strive to achieve equity of services in parallel attendance centers
- f) Consider “attendance centers” for purposes of efficiency, balance, and equity
- g) Reduce chronic truancy/improve attendance rate/communicate attendance issues to parents
  - i. **Improve attendance rate by 2-3% in grades K-8 and 5% in grades 9-12**
- h) Conduct on-going evaluation of PCHS’s Block-4 schedule
- i) Reduce the number of drop-outs
- j) Reduce the number of home-school applications
- k) Continue to refine portfolio system for assessment
- l) Plan and implement a carefully articulated K-12 writing curriculum**
- m) Continue to promote advanced placement, dual credit, virtual high school, and distance learning at PCHS
- n) Utilize/expand the services of Parkland Junior College and Heartland Community College
- o) Reduce disciplinary incidents on buses
- p) **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**
- q) Continue the endeavor to return students to LEA schools from out-of-district placements when appropriate
- r) Consider alternatives to current extra-curricular training rules
- s) Continue to execute technology implementation schedule
  - i. **Roll over the implementation schedule to a new five years, based on the recently-approved tech plan**
  - ii. **Expand STI-Home to include K-4 information, and homework information for all grades**
- t) Train staff in teaching the low-come, at-risk student
- u) Implement a drug/alcohol education program at grades 5-7**
- v) Continue to foster collaboration through department/grade instructional level meetings
  - i. Articulate curriculum K-12 horizontally and vertically
- w) Examine student readiness for college mathematics through discussions of curriculum articulation, teaching material upgrades, and staff development
- x) Endeavor to develop in students a sense of ambition and exploration beyond the K-12 experience**
- y) Develop and implement a carefully coordinated program for gifted and talented students, grades K-6**

Goal 2 Finance

- a) Continue long-term financial projections
- b) Determine staffing needs by February
- c) Continue to seek means to increase efficiency
- d) Communicate to all parties the need to “stretch” reorganization incentive monies to five-ten (5-10) years**
- e) Prepare a budget reduction plan (schedule) for post-incentive era
- f) Monitor tax rate and its impact on citizenry
- g) Monitor assessed value and its impact on district revenues
- h) Keep legislators informed of local issues of school finance
- i) Keep staff informed of local issues of school finance
- j) Obtain competitive grants whenever possible
- k) Analyze enrollment patterns and make enrollment projections
- l) Formulate a plan to reduce staff commensurately with declining enrollment and loss of revenue
- m) Consider “attendance centers” for purposes of efficiency, balance, and equity
- n) Negotiate agreements with tax increment financing (TIF) districts, and other redevelopment programs, that protect the school system financially, yet encourage community growth**
- o) Refine procedures for depositing monies in **and accessing monies from** activity fund accounts
- p) Continue to negotiate collective bargaining agreements that provide employees appropriate wages, hours, and working conditions, yet take into account the district’s financial status**
- q) Continue to examine ways and means to reduce cost and increase efficiency in custodial and maintenance services (OBM fund)**

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
  - i. **Work toward making internet transmissions robust 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) Phase out 15-passenger vans in transporting students
- k) Recruit new bus drivers
- l) In light of declining enrollment, develop a plan for the reduction of facilities and consolidation of students**

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 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) **Promote reorganization opportunities when possible**
- m) **Explore more effective ways and means to review and update school board policy manual**

#### 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) **Develop a plan for replacing half of the administrative staff (due to retirements) for the 2009-2010 school term**

#### 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 together on declining EAV/funding/joint issues
- 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) **Negotiate agreements with tax increment financing (TIF) districts, and other redevelopment programs, that protect the school system financially, yet encourage community growth**

#### DONE OR IN PROGRESS

- IN PROCESS OF RELOCATING THEATRE OPERATION TO CHENOA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/FORMER HIGH SCHOOL (ONLY STAGE)
- REVISED ESP JOB DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION PROGRAM
- IMPLEMENTED FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN
- RETURNED FIVE (5) STUDENTS FROM OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENTS TO LOCAL COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS
- IN PROCESS OF REVIEWING ALCOHOL/DRUG PROGRAM
- RESOLVED HEATING CONTROL ISSUES (WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS)
- CLOSED NOON HOUR CAMPUS AT PCHS
- CONVERTED CHENOA HIGH SCHOOL TO CHENOA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- RELOCATED UNIT, TRANSPORTATION OFFICES TO FAIRBURY (PCHS, WESTVIEW, RESPECTIVELY)

- COMPLETED OR NEARLY COMPLETED CHENOA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (PLAYGROUND, GYM FLOOR, AUDITORIUM)
- RE-FURBISHED THE PCHS GYM (FLOOR, WALLS, LOWER BLEACHERS, ROOF)
- ESTABLISHED PAYROLL NEWSLETTER
- IN THE PROCESS OF ADAPTING HEALTH INSURANCE TO NEEDS OF STAFF AND DISTRICT BUDGET
- ESTABLISHED AUTOMATIC PAYROLL DEPOSIT
- EXPANDED AND RESTRUCTURED THE DISTRICT WEB PAGE
- EXECUTED INITIAL PHASES OF TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE
- INFORMED STAFF OF SEXUAL HARRASSMENT AND MANDATED REPORTER LAWS AND POLICIES AND WILL UPDATE ON REGULAR BASIS
- CREATED BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OPPORTUNITY IN CHENOA. INTEREST IS GROWING IN FORREST – PLANS ARE BEING WORKED OUT TO TRANSPORT STUDENTS TO FAIRBURY PROGRAM. THE DISTRICT IS HELPING WITH FUNDING. THE DISTRICT ALSO HAS SUPPORTED AN EXPANSION OF THE FORREST MENTORING PROGRAM TO FAIRBURY, CHENOA, AND CHATSWORTH.
- EXECUTED TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTION SCHEDULE IN ALL ESSENTIAL REGARDS (FIRST THREE OF FIVE YEARS)
- ENHANCED RANDOM DRUG-TESTING TO INCLUDE EtG (TRACES ALCOHOL TO PREVIOUS 80 HOURS)
- PHASED IN WELLNESS PROGRAM BY PROMOTING HEALTHY FOOD AND DRINK, AND FITNESS AT ALL GRADE LEVELS
- RETURNED SIX (6) STUDENTS TO LEA COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS FROM OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENTS
- HELD COLLABORATION MEETINGS THE LOWER GRADES TO ANALYZE ISAT 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 TROUGH THE INTERNET
- EXPERIMENTED SUCCESSFULLY WITH CREDIT CARD PAYMENT OPTION AT REGISTRATION
- INTRODUCED AUTOMATIC DEPOSIT AND A HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT TO STAFF
- BEGAN THE PROCESS OF UPDATING AND STREAMLINING ALL STAFF FORMS
- BEGAN THE PROCESS OF DEMOLISHING OLD CHENOA GRADE SCHOOL AND CONVERTING PARCELS OF SCHOOL PROPERTY INTO HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS
- **DEMOLISHED “OLD” CHENOA GRADE SCHOOL**

- **SOLD CHENOA PROPERTY (OLD GRADE SCHOOL AND PRACTICE FIELD SITES)**
- **COMPLETED RENOVATIONS OF “NEW” CHENOA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAGE AND DECLARED IT HOME TO THEATRE PRODUCTIONS, MUSICALS, JAZZ CONCERTS, AND MADRIGALS**
- **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)**
- **IN PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING ARTICULATED K-12 WRITING PROGRAM (CURRICULUM)**
- **IN PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING DRUG/ALCOHOL EDUCATION PROGRAM, GRADES 5-7**