

Director's Report to the Board of Education February 10, 2009



Item #1: The faculty, staff and administration of the CDC have been focused on improving student attendance since the beginning of the spring 09 semester. I've gone into classes and discussed this with students while teachers have reinforced the message. We're reminding students that attendance and punctuality are essential job skills regardless of the trade.

Item #2: When we return from February break, our focus will also be on recruitment for fall 2009 and beyond. While our total enrollment has been going up recently, many of our programs still have capacity for more students.

Item #3: I have met with Jim Montepare to see if a mechanism could be put in place that makes it possible for Drury HS students to attend the CDC. He was not optimistic that it could happen, but did leave the door open for further discussion with him and the North Adams mayor.

Item #4: Frank Lamb, Bob Montgomery and I met with the Headmaster at Burr and Burton Academy. The discussion focused on ways BBA could modify its rotating schedule in order to allow more of their students to access CDC programs. The solution may be in a combination of some hand scheduling on BBAs part and some flexible scheduling on our part with respect to CDC programs that may be able to accommodate a BBA student who alternates attendance AM one day and PM another. The next step may be for Jess and Bill to set up a meeting with BBA counselors and schedulers.

Item #5: Bruce Lee-Clark and I are researching NYS Education Law to determine if language exists similar to that in Vermont Education Law (*thanks for finding it Frank Lamb*), relative to state aid for tuition to out of state tech schools if the sending school is geographically isolated from its nearest BOCES program. An affirmative answer to this question could positively affect our effort relative to recruiting Hoosic Falls HS students into our program. We'll keep the board posted of our progress.

Item #6: Speaking of keeping the board informed, The CDC has set up email accounts for all current board members. We did this in the firm belief that as board members, you are an integral part of our organization. You are our governing body and therefore need to be kept informed in order to make learned decisions. We will discuss the details and give each board member his/her username and password as well as explaining the other options in executive session. (*because of the usernames and passwords*).

Item #7: I will be attending my first state wide directors' meeting in Randolph later this week. I look forward to talking with my counterparts from across the state.

Item #8: With the board's permission, the CDC administration would like to prepare and present enrollment data by program over the past several years. It would most likely be a PowerPoint presentation as well as handouts for the board and the attending public. This could be done in time for the March meeting, but if we wait until the April meeting we'll be able to include both fall and spring 09 enrollment figures for a more accurate comparison as well as giving the board an update on our recruiting efforts.

Item #9: The Cosmetology Program is busy! Cosmetology 1 students are learning color theory, while Cosmetology 2 students are studying Anatomy and Physiology while preparing for State Board. Our Wella educator recently visited to give the Cos 2 students advanced education on color formulation and correction. The class also recently learned how to give European facials which will be a new service offering at Studio 152! The Cosmetology Program will be having a Valentine's Day themed bake sale on Thursday, February 12th to fundraise for upcoming field trips. The Cosmetology Program will be providing community service to the residents of Walloomsac Apartments' on February 26th. The students will be giving manicures in the resident's community center. There is a poster contest for the month of February in Cosmetology 1 where students are creating posters to advertise the program.

Item #10: The Annual Report is complete and available on our Website. Hard copies will be available Wednesday February 11th. Post cards will be mailed on Wednesday February 18th.

Item #11: Here's an example from Item #10.



Engineering and Design students continue to learn valuable lessons on how to solve problems in order to make a difference in our world. Engineering 2 students are working on some exciting final projects this year. These projects include: conversion of a vehicle to run on battery power, studying the impact of hydrogen injection on fuel consumption, designing and testing an impact-resistant case for a computer terminal, and designing an efficient work space. Other program highlights include: technical drawing, computer aided design, design analysis on many different levels, and the opportunity for students to earn college credit each year of the program through Project Lead the Way and RIT.

Item #12: Law Enforcement:

Upcoming field trip to New York State Police Academy

1 student Intern at the Bennington Police Dept

1 student Intern with Fish & Wildlife

3 students have joined the Hoosick Falls Law Enforcement Explorers Post

1 paid intern with the VT Dept of Liquor Control

Students completed a block of instruction in Control and Restraint with Sgt. Lloyd Dean from Benn PD

We are currently studying VT criminal law and the constitutional amendments related to policing such as 4th, 5th, 8th

Item #13: Business Management: Students just finished a speech on values, which is very important in life and in the business world. Some examples of values included honor, faith, compassion, honesty, and achievement. Students are also members of Future Business Leaders of America and are busy planning for the Spring Leadership Conference in April. Each student will compete in six different business events which might include business plan, business law, accounting, public speaking, communication, desktop publishing, economics, e-business, marketing and entrepreneurship. Eight students in FBLA just completed a fundraiser with the Booster Club to work the concession stand at a girl's basketball game, netting \$245 to help with the upcoming conference fees.

Business Basics: Students just finished a unit on checkbook management and worked with a sample checkbook complete with checks, deposit slips, and a check register. To cap off this unit, the branch manager from Citizens Bank, Patrick Runyon, came in on Feb. 9th as a guest speaker to talk about banking, financial management, checkbook management, bank fees, etc. He and his associates will be coming again on Feb. 25th to meet with the MAU Business Math and the CDC Entrepreneurship classes.

Entrepreneurship: Students are working on their first public speaking opportunity about a famous entrepreneur, and will be giving the speech this week to the class. They are also working to start three school-based businesses during this semester which include: woodworking, beaded jewelry and skateboard art.

On Wednesday, Feb. 11th, Barbara Hoar from the Rotary is coming to talk with Business Management about the 4-way speech contest they sponsor every year. Last year one of my students won \$800 in that contest.

Item #14: In Video Production we are writing dramatic and comic scripts. The students will be making a movie of one of their scripts. In Theatre Arts we are working on four original one act plays. Love Kills by Liz Hyland, Dr. Faust We Hardly Knew Ye, by Nick Duval, Library Lovers by Gayelan Ulrich, and Nothing In This World by Justin Spencer. These plays will be presented Wednesday and Thursday Feb. 25 and 26 at 7:00 PM in the auditorium. We are also working on reading stories for elementary students.

Item #15: (*Excerpted from the Annual report*). The Ag/Bio Sciences class focuses on the synergy of sciences involved in growing and caring for greenhouse plants, animal husbandry, soil science and introductory botany. This class meets the VT Framework Standards necessary to fulfill a science credit for graduation. This class offers an

overview in all sciences with a laboratory-based learning environment. The Plants and Flowers class focuses on understanding flower and plant families, plant anatomy, plant identification, plant growth and usage. Both foundation classes are designed to introduce students to the skills and knowledge needed to pursue a career in Agriculture and Ecological sciences. The Agro-ecology program overall focuses on water management, land and soil resources, horticulture professions, greenhouse management, integrated pest management and field ecology-especially unique environments, in addition to other important skills needed to train students for the 'Green' future.

The Fall of 2008 was a tremendous semester for the Ag/Bio students. The students surveyed the history of agriculture, developed experiments in both soils and hydroponics, worked with soil and fertilizer chemistry, grew and sold holiday plants such as poinsettias, paper white daffodils and amaryllis. This venture allowed students to gain an understanding of business management. In addition, the students germinated seeds for Osage orange, basil, tomatoes, jalapeno peppers, parsley and cilantro. It was an exciting experience for all through cleaning the greenhouse, learning about pests and diseases, understanding our local agriculture community, comparing soil growing environments to hydroponic environments, developing wonderful teamwork skills, and creating a vibrant environment in which to learn about horticulture and agriculture sciences.

Item #16: The Human Services Program continues into the second semester preparing for careers in the helping professions including teaching, social work, counseling, and working with the elderly and the disabled.

All of our seniors completed their college selection & applications, and several have already received their acceptances. These colleges include MCLA, Clinton Community College, Elms College, Russell Sage College, Keene State College, and Anna Maria College.

The first year students will spend the remainder of the year learning about lifespan development – what happens to us from before birth to death and the variety issues people face throughout such as substance abuse and mental illnesses. They will be spending many days working with local elementary students. The second year students spent several weeks working with children in a variety of settings, including our on-site lab (Growing Upright @ the CDC, a home day care, a preschool and an infant & toddler program). They will spend the remainder of the year learning about working with children & families. The second year students will be visiting a variety of local social services agencies to learn about their services and the variety of careers available.

Our culminating trip this year will be to NYC, where they will learn about social services for immigrants, and where the Children's Museum of Manhattan will do a special workshop for us on learning through play and on adapting play for children with special needs.

Item #17: Building Trades students have completed construction of the equipment shelter for Engineering's wind turbine. The building will be moved up to the middle school and set up very soon. The weather hasn't been very cooperative lately, but it appears as if the deconstruction of the barn at NBGS will start up again this week. This afternoon (2/9) the BT1 students cleared snow off the second level deck, and as long as

the weather is reasonable we'll be removing floorboards tomorrow. Both classes have been working on repairs of classroom furniture for a couple of other programs, and BT2 students have successfully prototyped a portable UV "handwash checking box" for teaching elementary students proper washing techniques. They will now build one unit for each of the elementary schools in the SVSU. The preliminary drainage and site work at the Laura Lane house site has been completed, and as soon as the weather breaks we should be ready to get a cellar hole dug and start on our next house. JG

Item #18: News from the Co-op Front:

This semester so far, there are 24 students participating in the co-op program (22 students in the co-op class and 2 students scheduled during their program time). 12 of those students are placed; the others are either awaiting results of interviews or are pending contact from employers. Students spent the first 2 weeks of the semester taking career assessments, writing resumes and cover letters and preparing for their job interviews. Last Friday, 4 members of the local Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) discussed the job search with students and conducted mock job interviews.

The numbers above does NOT include the 8 Cosmetology II students who participate in a co-op where they rotate through six participating salons for 3 weeks per salon, a program that was started in the fall and will continue through May.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Frank J. Barone