

Director's Report to the Board of Education May 18, 2009 – at BBA



Item #1: Three data reports from our April meeting are now on the CDC website where the Director's Reports are housed. They are:

1. CDC Tuition relative to the other tech centers in Vermont.
2. Percentage of total enrollment from sending schools and tuition impact from adult enrollments
3. Maximum recommended enrollments

Item #2: Board minute archives on the website are now current and up to date.

Item #3: Our Tech Awards Banquet is being held at the Elks Club on June 4th. The Board will be receiving invitations shortly.

Item #4: The CDC now has two vehicles for staff to use for school business or to transport students. We had a Chevy Cavalier which was donated to the school and made road ready by our Auto Tech students. This vehicle can transport up to three students comfortably. We've added a six passenger minivan. Both vehicles are also available to Board Members to use on school business.

Item #5: In the bad news department, I regret to report that the RFP for the summer work program for Bennington youth was turned down by the Vermont Dept. of Education. We had a really great program planned that would have employed 40-50 at risk youngsters doing work that ranged from building dugouts for our ball fields to planting flowers and shrubs around the community to doing hair and nails for our senior citizens.

Item #6: Mike and Josh will be installing an additional WiFi system at the CDC over the summer so that students can also have access to the internet. The student system will have many more filters than our staff access which is already pretty restricted.

Item #7: The Cosmetology 2 Program recently visited NYC for attendance at the International Beauty Show. This is the largest and most exciting industry trade show in the country. A great time was had by all. As we are winding down the school year, we are in intense preparation for the State Board exams which the students will apply to take this summer. Very nerve-racking and very exciting, all at the same time! The Cosmetology 2 students are working with teachers and Mrs. Klein on their resumes and cover letters to prepare for employment upon graduation. The students will be spending time at the CDC booth at Mayfest and well as volunteering for the Senior All-night party to do nails and hair on the attendees. Happy Spring!

Cosmetology 1 recently spent a day at the newly renovated Bennington Project Independence on Harwood Hill. We had the pleasure of touring their new location and

what a beautiful place it is. It was nice to see how the historic building has been so well preserved.



We were a group of 15 students and performed about 25 manicures on the visitors and even a couple of staff members. Everyone had a great time and as always it makes us feel good doing a community service. Attached is a couple of pics.



Item #8: The Pre-Law program had a successful trip to Washington, D.C., with the students experiencing:

A personal tour of the Capital and time in the Senate courtesy of Sen. Leahy's office.

A visit to the U.S. Supreme Court.

A moving visit to Arlington National Cemetery and the ceremony of the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown.

Their first train and subway ride.

Visits to various monuments and memorials, including the new law enforcement memorial in Judiciary Square.

The Pre-Law Program will also be participating in the presentation of a proposed local ordinance to the Bennington Select Board which they drafted. The Ordinance would prohibit the use of tobacco products in and around the town-owned parks. Students are working in collaboration with Tobacco Free Community Partners and Kiah Morris, their Community Coordinator among others in the coalition.

The Pre-Law Program is also preparing for their final Mock Trial, scheduled for June 1 & 2 in the Assembly Room.

Forensics Investigation [long block] successfully completed our first "Autopsy" of Fetal Pigs, following the new Board Policy on Dissection. Students were very engaged in this exercise. (Use if you want.)

Item #9: On May 11th, 8 students from Nicky Forest's Business Management Program at the Career Development Center, went MAUMS to work with 20 students from Jerry



O'Connor's class on a recycling project called "Trash to Treasure." Middle School students worked in groups of 4 and had a CDC student as facilitator, helping and coaching them to turn their box of reusable or recyclable materials into a product. Students had to name their product, price their product, decide where to sell their product, and keep

track of anything extra they bought from the "store" that was set up for them by the CDC students. Items created included Mrs. Recycle, a reusable recycle bin, The Fly, a solar

powered jet pack, a Locker Buddy, to help organize student lockers, the Ninja Cat Scratcher, and two toys made from recycled materials in the form of a centipede and an action figure. Mrs. Forest and Mr. O'Connor have been working together to encourage their students to "Go Green" and recycle, both at school and at home. The Business Management Program is in charge of recycling at the CDC, and the 6th grade recycles on a daily basis and works with Casella Waste to recycle at the Middle School.

Item #10

As the school-year comes to a surprisingly-soon end, students have continued to learn skills to enable them to work with others. First year students, in studying adult development, also learned about domestic violence, substance abuse and mental illnesses. The end of the year will involve learning about elderly development and death & dying. Second year students have been developing their own curriculum around various educational topics, such as music & movement, pre-writing skills and field trips. They are spending one class a week at a local child care center to focus on that week's curriculum theme. Additionally they will be visiting many local human services agencies to learn about their services and the plethora of careers in the human services field. Their year will culminate with studying various special needs of children and as well as parent involvement.



The seniors will be entering various colleges, including Elms, Cazenovia, MCLA, Castleton, Keene, Clinton Community College and UVM, majoring in Education, Psychology, Social Work, Family Studies and Early Education.

Human Services students @ Children's Museum of Manhattan, where they learned about planning activities for children.

Item #11

The Marketing Class had nine students attend the National DECA Conference in Anaheim CA on April 27-May3. This competition has broken the record for attendance. There were over 14,000 kids in attendance with another 3,000 in advisor and chaperones. Needless to say the competition was tough but our students did their best and we are so very proud of them.



Although we won no awards our students presented themselves in a very professional manner, in my eyes they are all winners. Not only did they attend the conference they saw part of California. National DECA held a “DECA” day at Universal Studios, with

the park opening early just for us. The students really enjoyed themselves and met a lot of other DECA students. No lines were a real plus. Students also had a two day Disney Park Hopper pass. We stayed at the Disneyland Resort so students had early access to the park. We also had a day at the beach. We visited two beaches that day, Newport and Laguna. Wow, what a great time. The kids were impressed with the sights and houses they saw. They were amazed with the building that is taking place on sides of hills with house put on stilts. What an experience for these young adults. They got to see where the mudslides wiped out houses on the hills and also where the wildfires burned through. I think it is wonderful these students got to see another part of our great country and most students loved the trip but had a new appreciation for our great state of Vermont.

Item #12

Communication Technologies Program Report 5/12/09

Calibration Collaboration

Communication Technologies is partnering with forensics to develop bone measuring equipment. Two osteometric boards are being built to allow students to perform precise measurements of bones. Mr. Lee-Clark took on the task of building the equipment when he realized that the cost of commercially available equipment, especially in relation to its quality, did not make sense. The mechanical workings of the equipment could be constructed of High Density Polyvinyl with aluminum parts. However, a problem arose with how to build and affix the measurement scale. Mr.

Lee-Clark brought the problem to the communication technologies class. After considering several methods of producing the metric scale, it was decided that a dye-sublimated image on aluminum stock would work best. The dye-sublimation process employs ink-jet technology for precise printing of the image. The image is transferred through a gas permeable coating onto the substrate by using heat and pressure. As the markings are embedded in the material, they won't peel or rub off. The surface is also durable and scratch resistant, ensuring that the equipment will survive through a great deal of use. This was a great opportunity for students to see how digital imaging and science work together.

Arlington – America's Best



Caption: Kristen Herrman shows off samples of the bumper stickers and t-shirts produced for AMHS.

Communication Technologies is nearing completion of a major graphics project for AMHS. Students are producing 250 bumper stickers and t-shirts in celebration of the school being included in the US News & World Report America's Best High School's list. Melissa Smith of AMHS was pleased that the job could be done locally and by students. The t-shirts are being made using a new heat transfer product, Neenah Image-Clip. This product allows excess transfer material to be removed from the image prior to application giving the finished product a cleaner look and a softer feel. Projects such as this allow students to work with the latest developments in image outputting and to become exposed to the challenges faced in doing full scale production.



New York Bound

On May 21, the Communication Technologies program will be spending the day in New York City. They will visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Sony Wonder Technology Lab.

Dillon Foster of the Communication Technologies program tests the Flash video game he is developing.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Frank J. Barone