

Board approves calendar for 2008-09 school year

Feb. 12, 2008

Schedule of professional development and teacher preparation days finalized.

In January 2007, a 2008-09 calendar was approved with start and end dates, vacation days, and parent teacher conference exchange days, but without the professional development and teacher prep days. BVSD's Calendar Committee explored other professional development options but concluded it needs more time to process all the feedback it gathered before making substantial changes in how this time is scheduled. In Tuesday's meeting, the board approved a final 2008-09 calendar with professional development time included. ❁

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Update from Susan Cousins, Communications Specialist

Louisville Middle School project moves forward with original DAT design

Following the guidance given to them from the design advisory team (DAT), the Louisville Middle School design team will move forward with the plan originally developed last spring and summer. The plan calls for the demolition of the original 1939 portion of the building to make way for the construction of a new addition.

Design work on the project was temporarily put on hold in January when Superintendent Chris King asked the DAT to reconvene to receive and process input from the local historical preservation community. Dr. King's request was prompted by community input given to the Board of Education and him concerning the proposed demolition of most of the 1939 portion of the building. Community members asked that the project be stopped and redirected. Instead, Dr. King asked the school's DAT members to listen to the historic preservation concerns while more closely examining the project impacts of preservation and then decide whether to amend their earlier recommendation.

In addition to receiving community input, the DAT also evaluated two different scenarios for preserving the building created by the project architect. One scenario retained the entire 1939 structure and the other preserved just the façade. In the second of two meetings which were held this week, the team also evaluated the cost estimates for the scenarios. The scenario to preserve the entire 1939 building would add \$5.25 - \$6.25 million to the project cost, while preserving just the façade would add \$3 - \$4 million.

All of the proposed designs would produce essentially the same square footage for the school. However, the DAT were concerned the preservation options did not address the need for better supervision of the primary entryway for security purposes. The original design included a large student gathering space just inside the main entrance which was visible from the main office. The DAT felt the school's close proximity to Main Street as well as the planned construction of a Fastracks station across the street prompted the need for an enclosed space for students to gather before and after school.

One of the significant deciding factors for the final direction of the project was the budget. The DAT inquired if there was any additional money that could be directed to the project for historical preservation. Don Orr, Director of Bond Planning, Engineering and Construction told the team no additional funding had been identified for the project. Louisville City Councilman Bob Muckle told the group that there has been some investigation into what kind of financial support the city could provide but that it would take time to acquire. In the absence of additional money, the only other option for funding the historic preservation work would be to eliminate other components of the project.

The primary responsibility of the DAT is to assist the architect in developing a design that meets the budget and schedule and fulfills the scope of work approved by voters in the Educational Facilities Master Plan. The DAT said they had worked very hard to create a design that met the scope of work and felt it would be difficult to eliminate anything and still fulfill the language of the bond. With this in mind, the team affirmed the direction of the original design. The project is scheduled to bid in April and begin construction in June.

Centaurus breaks ground for new wing

Lafayette Mayor Chris Cameron, Superintendent King and Board of Education members Jim Reed, Jean Paxton, Laurie Albright and Ken Roberge joined Centaurus Principal Rhonda Haniford, teachers Diana Wiant and Susan Rixey and head boy Dave Dishman and head girl Kayla Luhrs to officially break ground for the new wing at Centaurus High School last week. The 5400-square foot 2-story addition will house the Engineering Department as well as World Languages. Centaurus faculty, staff and students and Bond Department staff joined in celebrating the culmination of many months' of work that has brought us to this point.

The \$5.6 million project also includes renovations to teachers' offices, special education classrooms, art rooms, and administrative offices. Other bond work at the school will include IT infrastructure upgrades, additional tennis courts, a new field house, resurfacing of the running track, upgrades to building systems such as HVAC and electrical wiring, as well as interior finishes upgrades. ❁



SMALL STEPS to greater SAFETY

Computer Ergonomics Quiz (Taken from the 7-Minute Safety Trainer)

Is your workstation set up correctly? Test your ergonomic skills:

1. **When you organize your workstation, you should think in terms of keeping frequently used items within easy reach.**
a. True b. False
2. **Your feet should be flat on the floor or supported by a footrest.**
a. True b. False
3. **For most people, a comfortable distance between their eyes and the computer monitor is 12 to 18 inches.**
a. True b. False
4. **Documents you need to refer to when working on the computer should be placed just above eye level at half the distance between you and your monitor.**
a. True b. False
5. **A 20/20/20 break means:**
a. Taking a 20-minute coffee break every 20 minutes. b. Focusing on something 20 feet away for 20 seconds. c. Making a 20-second phone call every 20 minutes.
6. **To reduce glare, which can cause eyestrain, adjust the screen brightness on your computer to low and set the contrast to high.**
a. True b. False
7. **When working on a computer, adjust your chair so that you can sit with your back comfortably straight and your head level.**
a. True b. False
8. **You should always rest your wrists on a padded wrist pad when you are keying.**
a. True b. False
9. **Everybody's chairs should be set the same way.**
a. True b. False
10. **When entering data, your forearms, wrists, and hand should be:**
a. Bent up b. Bent down c. Straight

1. a. True 2. a. True 3. b. False. For most people, a comfortable distance between their eyes and the computer monitor is 25 to 30 inches. There is no "One size fits all." 4. b. False. Documents you need to refer to when working on the computer should be placed slightly below eye level at the same distance from your eyes as the monitor. 5. b. Focusing on something 20 feet away for 20 seconds. Do this about every 20 minutes. 6. a. True 7. a. True 8. b. False. You should rest your wrists on a padded wrist pad *only* when you are *not* keying. 9. b. False. Your chair should be adjusted according *your* size and shape. 10. c. Straight

Board Approvals

The Soaring Eagles Alliance donated \$35,000 to Eldorado K-8 which will be used to purchase classroom materials for all grades and programs.

Resolution 08-02 was approved in which the board, acting pursuant to the provisions of COLO.STAT.ANN S.22-63-202(3), determines that there is justifiable decrease in the number of teaching positions within BVSD because of a decline in enrollment in certain subject areas, program change and/or fiscal exigency. The superintendent, on behalf of the board, will notify the Boulder Valley Education Association of the intended reductions in the professional staff in Unit B.

The 2007-08 supplemental budget and resolutions for the period of July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008 were approved.

A lease agreement between BVSD and the City of Boulder for conduit space and fiber optic cable was approved. This is in support of the construction of a Fiber Optic Telecommunication Network (Network) which is a strategic component of the 2006 Bond Program.

Five contracts were approved:

Ingersoll Rand of Denver will provide a new compressor for Boulder TEC's Collision Repair facility. This is a 2007-08 Capital Reserve project.

Continued on following page.

IMPACT EDUCATION ANNOUNCES IMPACT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Impact on Education announced the 2008 Impact Award recipients this week with a surprise visit to each of the recipients' schools. The Impact Awards program was established in 1992 to annually honor five BVSD teachers, employees or volunteers who have made a significant positive impact on student learning in Boulder Valley. This year's recipients were selected via a highly competitive process from a pool of 38 nominees. All award recipients will be acknowledged and celebrated at the Impact Awards Dinner on April 17, 2008 in the Glenn Miller Ballroom at the University of Colorado. *The 2008 Impact Award recipients are:*

Leticia de Lozano, Spanish Teacher – Boulder High School

Leticia de Lozano began the Adelante! program at Boulder High School years ago as a volunteer in a grassroots effort to promote Latino graduation from Boulder High School. She engages with students wherever they are despite their challenges, sets high expectations, accepts no excuses and encourages them to believe in themselves and their dreams, instilling in them a sense of hope and courage. As a Spanish teacher for over 27 years, Leticia is a steadfast advocate for her students and their families.

Michele Hibl, Fifth Grade Teacher – Coal Creek Elementary

Michele Hibl's devoted and enthusiastic attitude as a fifth grade teacher at Coal Creek Elementary is infectious to her students. Challenging each child to reach his or her full potential, Michele makes each lesson creative and memorable. Her students look forward to going to school and are encouraged by frequent notes, phone calls and meetings. With four school-aged children of her own, she still finds time to support her students outside of school at their sporting events, recitals, plays and competitions.

Larry Orobona, Principal – Heatherwood Elementary

Larry Orobona has been principal at Heatherwood Elementary for the past nine years. In that time, he and his staff have worked hard to make Heatherwood a successful academic school with a warm neighborhood-community feel. "Mr. O" understands that a successful school is one where teachers, parents and staff work well together, always keeping the best interest of the students in mind. Over his tenure, "Mr. O" has turned a good school into a great school by making small changes, one child at a time.


Al Real, Science Teacher – Nederland Middle/Senior High School

Nederland Middle/Senior High School life science teacher Al Real goes well beyond the curriculum to motivate his students. What makes this teacher so special is his ability to reach each student, regardless of the challenges he or she might face. Every student that comes under Al's tutelage not only learns the required content, but more importantly, they experience the joy of learning. Through example, Al teaches to love learning and to strive to get the most out of every opportunity that comes along.

Barb Steiner, Fifth Grade Teacher – Bear Creek Elementary

Barb Steiner, a fifth grade teacher at Bear Creek Elementary School, is a passionate, dedicated and articulate educator. Barb's calming nature and patience create a safe and secure place for learning. Fellow teachers marvel at the depth of her preparation for every lesson and her consistently positive disposition. Barb is selflessly dedicated to her students, advocating for them and ensuring that they get the support and encouragement that they need to do their best.

Please note that the letters of intent for the Science, Technology and Math program are due on February 20. For information and to submit a letter of intent, please go to: http://www.impactoneducation.org/site/file/program_tech21.html/


Impact on Education is dedicated to increasing student learning and support for public education in the Boulder Valley School District. The organization's three focus areas are teacher excellence, science & technology and at-risk students. For more information, visit www.ImpactOnEducation.org. 

Board Approvals (Continued from previous page.)

Argus Contracting will perform asbestos abatement for the removal, disposal, and remediation of asbestos-containing materials from the 1939 portion of Louisville Middle School in preparation for new construction in conjunction with the 2006 Bond Program. This abatement is required regardless of the final design.

Williams Scotsman will provide installation, removal, and a 16-month lease of 13 portables from May 1, 2008, through August 31, 2009, at Broomfield High School while construction of the new west wing occurs as part of the 2006 Bond Program. The Bond Program has developed a "Low Emitting Materials" standard that applies to the bidding of new portables for the Bond projects. The standard provides for certification by the vendor that the portables are lead-free, free of asbestos-containing materials, and built with certain low VOC-materials, including carpet. Additionally, prior to occupancy, the portables will undergo industry-standard off-gassing procedures and randomly selected units shall undergo air quality testing.

Williams Scotsman will provide the installation, removal, and a 16-month lease of 11 portables from May 1, 2008, through August 31, 2009, at Louisville Middle School while the new bond construction and renovation occurs. These portables will meet the "low emitting materials" standard described above.

Williams Scotsman will provide the installation, removal, and a 16-month lease of one portable from May 1, 2008, through August 31, 2009, at Southern Hills Middle School while construction of the new gym/music rooms take place. This portable will meet the "low emitting materials" standard described above. 

Feb. 12, 2008

Hats off!

Congratulations to this week's Superintendent's Honor Roll recipients:

At the Feb. 12 board meeting, Superintendent Chris King honored two members of the BVSD community who exemplify the character and public spirit that are at the core of the characteristics contained in our New Century Graduate profile. One is an educator who, in teaching her third graders to write, also showed them how to be effective and helpful members of their community. The other is a young man who rose to a challenge most of us will never face and came through with flying colors.

Foothill Elementary School Third Grade Teacher Holli Hoskins was nominated by Foothill Principal Melissa Zahn and Foothill parents Julene Thom, Jenni Tierney, and Kelly Hildebrandt. They described her as a “creative, deeply devoted teacher that has a special talent of making every child in her classroom feel respected, appreciated and valued.” According to her nomination, Holli integrates creative writing assignments into the daily life of her classroom. She seeks out unique writing assignments, which become personal works of accomplishment and empowerment for students.

During the 2006-07 school year, Holli gave her class the assignment to answer the question, “What would you do to better the world if you had \$1000.” She led the class in thoughtful discussions and inspired them to believe that small people could make a difference. She submitted these writing papers to CBS4 in Denver, entering them into that station’s “Pay it Forward” contest. To her students’ surprise, they won. They received \$1000 to be used to as they wished to make a positive difference in the world. The students decided to split the money to help two often forgotten groups, senior citizens at Sunrise Assisted Living Center in Boulder and animals at the Boulder Valley Humane Society. Holli continued to foster relationships with those senior citizens by encouraging her students to continue writing to them as pen pals, making Valentine’s and holiday cards. This project became a tremendous learning experience. These friendships continue still.

This year, Holli guided her third graders as they wrote letters to executives at Kellogg’s, suggesting new cereal flavors they’d like to see created. Last week, the response arrived in a big box with Kellogg’s t-shirts and snacks for the entire class and a letter back to thank them for their suggestions. Her students were excited that executives at a big company would take the time to respond to them.

Louisville Middle School Eighth Grader Jared Vigil was honored for the following heroic act:

Last Wednesday, Jared felt sick and was excused and sent home from school. About the same time, the mother of a classmate of Jared’s was in Louisville’s Cottonwood Park near a frozen lake. Her dog ran onto the lake’s ice and it cracked under the dog’s weight. The dog was having trouble getting out. Because she did not have her cell phone, the woman went onto the ice after her dog only to have the ice crack under her as well. The dog made it out of the lake but the woman could not. Jared’s route home took him by the lake where he heard her calls for help. He responded by calling 911 on his cell phone and then used his school backpack from thicker ice near the lakeshore to assist her out of the lake just as paramedics responded.

Jared never mentioned the incident to Louisville Middle School administrators. However, the mother, Connie Ostwald, who is fine now, telephoned school principal Adam Fels to tell him what Jared had done for her.



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Jared Vigil with David Auday, a counselor at Louisville Middle School, speaking at a special assembly that was held Feb. 8 to honor Jared. Four local television news stations were there to cover the event.

"Character gets tested everyday," said LMS Assistant Principal Ginny Vidulich. "In a crisis situation like this, for Jared to respond so perfectly is a testament to his character and courage. We're all so proud of Jared and grateful for his heroism."

At a school assembly last Friday, all of LMS turned out to honor their friend and classmate for his calm and courageous handling of this life-threatening situation. The Louisville Fire Department awarded Jared a Certificate of Valor (only the fifth in their 127-year history) and Adam Fels presented him with a plaque as the Louisville Middle School "Hero of the Year." 🌟