

Horatio School District

Annual Report to the Public

Monday, October 13, 2014

6:00 p.m. in the Elementary Cafeteria

Horatio School District's annual report to the public began with the opening of the October regular scheduled board meeting. Superintendent, Mr. Lee Smith, welcomed visitors to the meeting and began the report with information on 2013-14 funding sources and revenue. The district received a total of \$8,322,462.77 from a combination of local, state, building, federal, activity, and food service funding sources. Mr. Smith discussed how the district is funded per student in foundation funds and other categorical funding based on student needs. Mr. Smith also explained district expenses and where the money goes to operate the school.

Mr. Smith then gave a brief snapshot of "Horatio by the Numbers" with some statistical data. Horatio School District had a 3rd quarter ADM of 844 students. There is one computer available for every two students. 71% of the students in Horatio School District qualify for free or reduced meals. The district has a student-teacher ratio of 14:1 in grades K-12. 51% of the teachers in the district hold advanced degrees. Horatio High School has 297 students enrolled in Pre-Advanced placement/Advanced placement courses.

Mr. Smith reported that Horatio School District has a total of 126 employees making it one of the largest employers in Sevier County. In addition to teachers, the school employs 9 custodial/maintenance staff, 2 nurses, 12 instructional aides, 10 bus drivers, 10 food service workers, 7 clerical staff, and 6 administrative staff. Some of these employees hold multiple titles.

Each year the state law requires elected board members to obtain 6 hours of professional development. Pollyanna Smith, serving an at-large position received 25.5 hours, Jeff Irvan, serving zone 3 received 14, Elizabeth Walker, serving an at-large position received 42.5 hours, Joe Jones serving zone 1 received 14 hours, Troy Allen received 12 hours, Greg Litchford received 14, and Dana Vance received 11 hours.

School District's in Arkansas are given an ESEA Accountability Status that rates schools on four areas and are classified as achieving, needs improvement, needs improvement-focus, and needs improvement-priority. Horatio School District was rated as follows:

School	Percent Tested	Graduation Rate	Literacy	Math	Overall
District	Achieving	Achieving	Achieving	Needs Improvement	Needs Improvement
High School	Achieving	Achieving	Achieving	Achieving	Achieving
Elementary	Achieving	NA	Needs Improvement	Needs Improvement	Needs Improvement

In addition to accountability status, each school is accredited by the Arkansas Department of Education and must meet minimal standards. If a school fails to meet those standards, they must take action to make necessary changes to ensure they are meeting state requirements. Horatio Elementary and High School are accredited and meet all standards. Horatio School District has a probationary status as a result of jobs not certified finding. The district has made corrections to this finding. In closing, Mr. Smith encouraged parents to get involved in the parental involvement opportunities within the district.

Susan Nelson, Horatio Elementary Principal, then reported that the current enrollment for Pre-school-sixth grade is 515. Mrs. Nelson noted that the elementary school has three new certified employees on staff for the 2014-15 school year. Mrs. Nelson noted that the elementary has been busy with the development of many committees that have been meeting to accomplish several different tasks. First was to improve our parent/student handbook & develop a faculty handbook. In addition, they have formed a building level leadership team which is scheduled to meet twice each month to work on ACSIP pilot program tasks. Each member on the ACSIP leadership team is also the head of the AdvancED standards committee.

Mrs. Nelson stated they are on schedule in regards to the full implementation of the (TESS) Teacher Excellence Support System which is the new teacher evaluation program and the use of Bloomboard which is an electronic portfolio system for documentation of TESS.

Mrs. Nelson reminded parents that they have added a 4th option for parents to pick-up their children if they do not have the time to wait in the car rider line. This option helps to avoid early checkouts for students.

The elementary is currently working on updating/redesigning the elementary website to make it more user friendly and they are forming a beautification committee to freshen up the campus and add a little more charm. They have plans to remodel the old ALE building and turn it into a literacy lab/ research area for the older students.

In regards to school safety, the elementary has a certified a school team in Positive Crisis Management which is an approved crisis intervention and restraint training. Mrs. Nelson concluded with a reminder that suggestions are always welcomed from the community on how to improve our school.

Mr. James Dobbins, High School Principal, reported on the following: 1) the school accountability status of achieving; 2) the implementation of virtual learning for Spanish classes; 3) an increase in Benchmark and ACT scores; 3) Smart Core curriculum requirements. Mr. Dobbins also reported that all of the AP teachers are fully certified and have received College Board AP training. He noted that there has been an increase in the number of students making a 4 on the AP exams, which is the highest rating a student can receive. Mr. Dobbins welcomed parents and community members to visit the high school and observe the innovative initiatives taking place within the school.

Misty Gentry, Federal Programs Coordinator, reported that the district is participating in the Indistar Pilot school improvement program. This is a web-based system implemented to guide the district and school improvement teams to inform, coach, track, and report improvement activities. A guest login will be provided on the school website in November to allow stakeholders to provide feedback to our plans and stay abreast of the evolving plan. Mrs. Gentry also reported on Title 1, as well as budgets for all federal and state categorical funds. The public was informed on how money was allocated to programs that are research based and proven to increase student achievement. More specific financial information can be found on the website under Annual Report to the Public PowerPoint presentation. Mrs. Gentry informed the public of our program for homeless students and our process for identifying students who qualify as "homeless." She asked for teachers, counselors, parents, and other community members to help notify the school of students who might qualify. She explained that students could qualify if they have no permanent residence, or even if the family is temporarily misplaced due to a fire or unfortunate circumstance.

Kaitlin Adwell, Elementary Parent Coordinator, shared that the elementary is working towards revising the parent-school compact. She noted that a parent involvement committee is working towards planning parent nights throughout the year to improve relations between families and the school. She encourages participation and suggestions to help with a successful parent and community involvement program. Mrs. Jenifer Seale, High School Parent Coordinator, provided a brochure detailing components of the parental involvement plan for the high school.

Mrs. Sharon Lindsey, Alternative Learning Environment director reported that the purpose for ALE is to provide a supportive, non-punitive environment that allows for students to gain the knowledge and skills needed to be lifelong learners and productive citizens. There are currently 14 students enrolled in ALE instruction. Mrs. Lindsey provided the current statistics:

- 14:1 student teacher ratio
- 45% exit the program at conclusion of the school term
- 15% will re-enter the ALE program
- 99% graduation rate
- 5% will enroll in college or trade school programs

Mrs. Lindsey also reported on the issue of truancy and tardiness within the program. Mrs. Lindsey reported on the implementation of a recovery hour policy to combat both issues.

Cindy Frachiseur, Special Education Supervisor/504 Coordinator, informed the public that Horatio Public School has 4 Special Education teachers and 4 paraprofessionals on staff. Horatio School District provides school based mental health counseling services with the assistance from Southwest Mental Health. She noted that the special education department participates in Special Olympics bowling and track and field each year. Mrs. Frachisuer also has a transition fair during parent/teacher conferences in the Spring.

Curtis Black, ESL Coordinator, presented information about the Horatio's ESL program. Currently there are 125 students in the ESL program. He stated the goal of the program is not only to increase our student's achievement in literacy and math but to develop skills that will allow them to succeed in all areas of life. Mr. Black informed the public the he is planning on starting an adult ESL class in the spring of 2015 and welcomes any volunteers interested in helping with the class. Mr. Black introduced Sandra Martinez as the new bilingual ESL aide for the district.

The Gifted and Talented report was presented by Jenifer Seale, K-12 GT coordinator and teacher. Mrs. Seal stated that she is completing placement testing on students at the elementary in hopes of increasing the number of identified students. There are currently 41 students served in the GT program. Mrs. Seale provides enrichment activities for all elementary classroom teachers and she visits the classrooms monthly. The elementary GT students participate in Genius hour with their classmates weekly in addition to pull-out time with Mrs. Seale to work on enrichment projects. The high school GT students are served through Advanced Placement and Pre-AP course work.