

Horatio School District Holds Annual Report to the Public
Monday, October 12, 2015
6:00 p.m. in the High School FACS Classroom

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 2014-15 funding sources and revenue. The district received a total of \$8,459,255.18 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, 2014, ADM of 852 students. There is one computer available for every one and half students. 73% 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 315 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 10 custodial/maintenance staff, 3 nurses, 14 instructional aides, 10 bus drivers, 10 food service workers, 7 clerical staff, 1 resource officer and 5 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 16.5 hours, Jeff Irvan, serving zone 3 received 6 hours, Elizabeth Walker, serving an at-large position received 11.5 hours, Joe Jones serving zone 1 received 6 hours, Troy Allen received 6 hours, Greg Litchford received 6 hours, and Dana Vance received 6 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	N/A	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 on:

Progress: Accomplished several cosmetic projects to improve the looks of the elementary campus. Successfully implemented the during school healthy snack program. We have increased 5th grade science scores slightly above the state average 65 vs 60. Only positive feedback from the consumers of the cafeteria.

Where are we now? Waiting on PARCC literacy and math results in November. Our K-3 DIBELS scores reflect 63% at Benchmark level. We are receiving staff wide PD from Dr. Guevara from SAU to increase higher level thinking and question during instruction. HES sponsoring a Boy Scout pack for Horatio and Foreman. Working to align our Social Studies using the new standards. Working with a consultant from play well in Little Rock to project a Phase I, II or III plan for improving our playground.

Future Plans:

Apply for Blue and You Grant in the spring to build a fitness trail and park. We have a few more landscaping projects in mind to continue to work, plan and prioritize needs and next steps based on our mission statement.

Goal: To make school not school but a fun exciting educational opportunity for students as well as adults.

Mrs. Nelson, also reported on C.Y.C.L.E. 1 (Connecting Youth and Community through Learning Experiences). 157 kids on average in elementary and 38 kids in high school are participating in the program.

Mr. James Dobbins, High School Principal, reported that Horatio High School has a current enrollment of 405 students in grades 7-12. Mr. Dobbins stated that the high school currently has a 263 student to class enrollment in either a pre-ap or ap class. He then reported to those in attendance that 32 students are currently enrolled at the secondary career center at CCCUA. Mr. Dobbins stated that with these courses, the district offers enough concurrent credit classes for a student to earn 35 college credit hours by the time they graduate. Mr. Dobbins then described the virtual Arkansas classes that Horatio students are currently taking and what they might be taking in the future. He reported that there are currently 111 students taking these types of classes. To close the presentation, Mr. Dobbins had 3 members of the class of 2016 speak to those present about the changes in the cafeteria menu.

These students also discussed their educational experiences over the last 3 years while answering question from board members.

Tammy McAlister, Federal Programs Coordinator, reported on Horatio School District Federal programs: **TITLE I** is a federally-funded program designed to provide additional assistance for those students who are having difficulty keeping up with their peers due to, among other things, a low-income household. Since 2006, Horatio Schools have operated under SCHOOLWIDE status, meaning that Title I funds may be used to benefit all students on both campuses. This year we are over 70% for the third year, so we will receive even more funding. About 96% of these funds are being used to pay salaries and benefits this year for: 5 paraprofessionals, 2 literacy facilitators, and a reading teacher/federal coordinator.

TITLE II-A is a federal grant designed to improve teacher quality through a variety of efforts, among them the reduction of the student-teacher ratio in the primary grades (K-3). Title II-A funding will be used this year to pay the salary and benefits of an additional 2nd grade teacher in order to reduce class sizes in that grade.

TITLE III is officially known as the English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement Act. Title III is a part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. It is specifically targeted to benefit Limited English Proficient (LEP) children and immigrant youth. These funds will be used to purchase materials, supplies, and technology to be used by ELL students.

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH (NSL) funds allow our district to provide many valuable services for our students, among them: materials, supplies, tutoring programs, and professional development. A major benefit available through NSLA funds is the opportunity to provide human resources through the following positions: ESL Coordinator/Teacher, Counselor, Technology Aide, and Pre-School Director/Teacher.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER (ELL) funds have been designated to hire an ESL Coordinator (.50). Funds will also be used to provide professional development to content teachers in an effort to improve instruction for English Language Learners in order to increase academic performance in literacy, math, and other content areas. Translation services will also be provided in order to improve communication between parents of ELL students and the school.

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (ALE) funds have been designated to hire an ALE instructor. This program is designed to enable high school students who are behind in their credits, due to various reasons, to recover those credits and to transition back into the regular classroom. Students are placed in the ALE program based on teacher referrals and/or parent request; placement must also be approved by the district's ALE committee. The Horatio School Alternative Education Currently has eleven students enrolled in the program. The purpose of the ALE is to provide a supportive/non punitive environment that allows students the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills for them to be lifelong learners and productive citizens. The board was provided with statistics which gave information on truancy, tardies, department, grades and funding. For more information, please contact Horatio High School program director, Sharon Lindsey.

The Horatio Public School Special Education District Supervisor, Cindy Frachiseur reported information on District Special Education Department at Horatio and State required information, during the district Public Meeting.

Jenifer Seale, K-12 GT coordinator reported the basic purpose of the program in gifted education at Horatio are to extend the scope and horizons and improve the learning experience for the gifted students by promoting higher level thought processes, critical and creative thinking skills, freedom to study in-dept areas of interest to expanded levels of inquiry, and to develop within each individual a sense of individual worth and a responsibility to self and to society.

Students in K-2 will receive whole group enrichment in the regular classroom once a week for 30 minutes. The GT teacher will go into the classroom once a month for 30 minutes.

Students in 3-6 grades will participate in classes in which they receive instructional services different from those normally provided in the regular classroom.

Identified GT students in grades 7-12 will be served in curriculum differentiation classes, Pre-AP and AP classes each day. Students will have the opportunity in a curriculum that will focuses on higher levels of thinking and complexity.

Identified students being served in elementary is 21

Identified students in Jr. High is 16

Identified students in Sr. High is 18