

# The Bridge



The Carrolton Bridge

Volume 1, Issue 7

April, 2010



## Spring Forward, and a Look Back...



### Important Dates

- April 1 Board of Education Meeting : BOE Office; 5:30 pm
- April 2-7 Spring Break: No School for Students or Staff
- April 8 Administrators' Meeting at Board of Ed. Office
- April 14 End of Eighth School Month for 2009-10
- April 20 Faculty Senate Chair Mtg. at BOE Office; 4:00 pm
- April 20 Board of Education Meeting: BOE Office, 5:30 pm
- April 21 ISE Day: No School for Students
- April 22 Full County Technology Team Meeting (BOE)
- April 30 PEIA Open Enrollment Period Ends

Dear Colleagues,

How nice! Spring has arrived! The rebirth and renewal are evident all around us. I hope you found the recent Spring Break restful and relaxing. You certainly have earned it!

I know you are aware that I always dwell and act on the premise that we should be forever striving to make Barbour County Schools better for our children. It is not my nature to long dwell on our accomplishments. I acknowledge them, and then turn my attention back on the continual process of improving Barbour County Schools. If I do not take as much time as I should to really dwell on those accomplishments, let me remedy that now.

When you have a few moments during this beautiful seasonal change, please take the opportunity to read a summary on the following pages of all the things we have accomplished together in just the past four years.

And feel a soft pat on the back from me. Without your consistent efforts and your desire to do what is right for children, we would not have accomplished so much. As always, thank you for your efforts. They are appreciated!



## **“BIG” Fun at BES As Student Learn Music Chords**



Remember Tom Hanks' young character playing Chopsticks with his feet on the jumbo piano at FAO Schwartz in the movie, *Big?* Music students at Belington Elementary School can now learn their scales and chords in a similar way, one that is both fun and educational, thanks to an Education Alliance grant awarded to music teacher, Gloria McLean.

The 21st Century Teaching mini-grant has allowed the purchase of a supersized keyboard that is fully functional and promotes application learning and the innovative use of technology, while reinforcing basic music concepts and skills.

The perfectly proportioned, foot-sized keyboard has been a “big” hit with fifth grade students this spring (right), as they apply the new technology to reinforce the more traditional listening and paper methods of learning.



**Barbour County Schools / Board of Education**  
**OVERVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS**  
**July 2006 – March 2010**

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**ATTENDANCE**

- o Increased overall student attendance rate & decreased dropout rate;
- o Initiated interagency support from medical facilities;
- o Initiated interagency support from court system and DHHR for interventions & legal meetings;
- o Developed and implemented student social work services;
- o Revised and implemented state of the art GED program.
- o Developed and implemented a consistent countywide transfer process;
- o Improved participation in interagency Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs)
- o Deepened interagency liaisons with Juvenile Probation & other legal issues;
- o Deepened interagency liaisons with Department of Health & Human Resources re: Abuse/Neglect cases.
- o Implemented interagency support of medical services including issuing a Daily Attendance Rate reports to the county health department re: H1N1 issues.

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

- ◆ Improved overall school performance - eight of nine schools now Fully Accredited by OEPA; one school achieved exemplary status;
- ◆ Developed and implemented standards-based report cards for grades K-5 to report student progress of CSO mastery;
- ◆ Improved administrative leadership at all schools;
- ◆ Improved teacher leadership at all schools;
- ◆ Developed and implemented objective data review of individual student progress;
- ◆ Preschool programming:
  - ◆ Increased the number of preschool classes;
  - ◆ Adopted and implemented creative curriculum for preschool;
  - ◆ Evaluated student progress using Creative Curriculum software;
  - ◆ Improved course offerings to better align with WVDE-mandated CSOs at the CTEC.

**OVERVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS (continued)****Reading Initiative:**

- ◆ Adopted a new core reading program that is aligned with current research;
- ◆ Developed and implemented a Three-Tier response to intervention (RTI) diagnostic prescriptive reading instruction process & provided in-depth teacher training to implement this model;
- ◆ Implemented an individual student diagnostic screening process;
- ◆ Incorporated diagnostic assessments to pinpoint student deficiencies;
- ◆ Developed and implemented a five-year professional staff development plan in reading;
- ◆ Retained internationally-recognized reading specialist to provide professional development and consultation in reading;
- ◆ Refined the operation of Professional Learning Communities in all schools to enhance their effectiveness;
- ◆ Employed two literacy coaches;
- ◆ Established a reading cadre to insure sustained, job-embedded professional development;
- ◆ Improved student performance in achievement in reading over the last three years.

**Other Curriculum and Instruction:**

- ◆ Developed and implemented curriculum maps that ensure all CSOs are covered within the school year;
- ◆ Added Rachel's Challenge (character education curriculum) to reduce bullying and harassment among students;
- ◆ Partnered with regional universities to add dual credit courses at PBHS;
- ◆ Overhauled the PBHS Media/Technology Center to ensure that it is student friendly;
- ◆ Added rigorous electives and ACT Preparatory classes at PBHS (Forensics, Chinese, etc);
- ◆ Established a county Math Leadership Team;
- ◆ Implemented *progress monitoring* to ensure student achievement & differentiated instruction to support student learning;
- ◆ Implemented a Credit Recovery Program at PBHS;
- ◆ Developed and implemented a Summer School Program at PBHS;
- ◆ Removed the archaic valedictorian graduation system and replaced it with a Latin system (best practice) for honoring graduates;
- ◆ Increased rigor at PBHS ex: increasing number of AP classes offered & all students take AP exams;

**OVERVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS (continued)**

- ◆ Implemented a Chinese language program at PBHS through the College Board ;
- ◆ Developed and implemented an integrated summer academic support program (ESY, critical skills, Gear Up, Energy Express, middle school Explorations, etc.)

**FACILITIES****Improved School Safety:**

- Developed and implemented countywide Safe Schools Plan;
- Initiated employee photo identification;
- Purchased AEDs for all school and trained employees on their use;
- Installed classroom intruder locks;
- Installed interior window film preventing break-through;
- Installed school entry electronic controls;
- Placed base and portable digital radios in all schools;
- Provided county/school emergency response planning and training.

**Improved School Facilities:**

- ◆ Secured funding for and completed BES drainage and paving project;
- ◆ Secured funding for and completed KEMS remediation/renovation project;
- ◆ Secured funding for and currently in process of completing JES addition and renovation;
- ◆ Successfully housed two schools at PBHS during renovations;
- ◆ Secured funding for and completed roof replacement on both CTEC buildings and old (1963) sections of PBHS;
- ◆ Secured funding for and completed replacement of damaged blue roof at PBHS;
- ◆ Installed wireless computer network access in all instructional areas of PBHSC;
- ◆ Corrected HVAC issues at PBHS, BES and PES;
- ◆ Removal of old maintenance shed & asbestos in it;
- ◆ Appointed a Maintenance Supervisor from the maintenance ranks;
- ◆ Reduced Fire Marshal and BRIM (Bureau of Risk Insurance Management) site evaluation findings;
- ◆ Developed and implemented a Renewable Energy project at PBHSC;
- ◆ Developed the 2010-2020 CEFP;

**OVERVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS (continued)**

- ◆ Developed and implemented a summer cleaning program to service all schools (SUPER CREW);
- ◆ Developed interagency relationships with AB College to support graduation for PB at Coliseum due to rain
- ◆ Developed interagency relationships with AB College to support graduation for PB at Coliseum due to rain;
- ◆ Provided the site for the Barbour County Emergency Office to erect a radio tower which improved emergency management communications throughout the county.

**FINANCE**

- ◆ Improved cash flow management;
- ◆ Established Permanent Improvement Fund (1.3 million!);
- ◆ Provided dental insurance for all employees;
- ◆ In process of providing vision insurance for all employees;
- ◆ Implemented Energy Education Program to conserve energy and reduce costs. Costs avoided from inception through 1/31/10 totalled \$480,000;
- ◆ Implemented P-Card program for purchasing;
- ◆ Implemented electronic approval of purchase orders;
- ◆ Developed and implemented zero-budgeting practices to better provide for student/teacher needs;
- ◆ Centralized the buying of large items, such as paper;
- ◆ Centralized billing for food service;
- ◆ Implemented school-level photography bids;
- ◆ Implementation of state-provided software to improve/enhance efficiencies;
- ◆ ZERO external audit findings for the past two years.

**LEGAL**

- ◆ Drastically reduced numbers of grievances and lawsuits;
- ◆ Reviewed & revised all internal procedures and practices to ensure compliance with all federal, state and local laws, regulations, policies and procedures (Most recent Federal Programs Audit conducted by the West Virginia Department of Education listed “no Findings” and named 20 “Commendations;”
- ◆ Researched, corrected and obtained all recorded deeds to all BCS properties;
- ◆ Reviewed and revised entire BCS Policy manual;
- ◆ Placed reviewed/revised policies on BCS website;
- ◆ Developed and disseminated Employee Handbooks;
- ◆ Joined statewide OPEB lawsuit.

**OVERVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS (continued)****PERSONNEL**

- ◆ Reviewed BCS implementation of personnel law & rectified/corrected all errors;
- ◆ Implemented the consistent practice of evaluating all employees per policy 5310;
- ◆ Developed and implemented Substitute Teacher and Service Evaluation forms;
- ◆ Reviewed and revised all job descriptions;
- ◆ Created databases to track seniority and vacancies;
- ◆ Reviewed, revised and/or created appropriate Supplemental Pay scales;
- ◆ Provided WVSSAC Coaches Certification Training to all coaches;
- ◆ Developed & implemented a volunteer policy & procedures – trained all volunteers;
- ◆ Developed and implemented a centralized calling system for assigning substitute teachers;
- ◆ Found financing for and/or appropriately budgeted for additional professional staff, including but not limited to: Librarians/Technology Integration Specialists; Reading Interventionists; Reading Coaches; Social Workers; LPNs, etc.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS**

- ◆ Created a Board of Education Scholarship Fund;
- ◆ Implemented *The Bridge* newsletter for employees;
- ◆ Implemented Parent Link for parents and employees;
- ◆ Published a quarterly newspaper article: *From the Desk of the Superintendent*;
- ◆ Expanded and implemented the county school website;
- ◆ Partnered with various agencies such as: World Vision, Heart and Hand, FRN, WVU Extension Service, Office of Emergency Management, etc;
- ◆ Implemented Faculty Senate chair meetings;
- ◆ Implemented meetings with association representatives on an as-needed basis;
- ◆ Adopted and implemented the use of the “apple” logo on stationary, board office entrance, board room and other publications and locations;
- ◆ Implemented the displaying of student art work at board office (rotating collection);
- ◆ Implemented the purchasing of *appreciation* gifts for all employees;
- ◆ Improved departmentalized meetings; e.g. custodians, maintenance, transportation, special education staff, secretaries.

**OVERVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS (continued)****STUDENT SERVICES**

- ◆ Developed and implemented the ALC half-day program during the school day;
- ◆ Implementation of Student Assistance Teams at all schools;
- ◆ Addition of two social workers and two interventionists;
- ◆ Addition of LPN/aides;
- ◆ Addition of a half-time Special Education Coordinator;
- ◆ Developed and implemented staff development training, eg: CPI, passive restraint, IEP training, SAT;
- ◆ Inventoried and replaced all evaluation tools;
- ◆ Examined the retention policy and incorporated best practices;
- ◆ Awarded 115 GED diplomas through the Adult Basic Education and GED programs and services.

**TECHNOLOGY**

- Obtained \$140,000 Microsoft reimbursements, allowing for the purchase of additional technology for schools;
- Developed a plan to increase broadband connectivity at all schools;
- Implemented the e-rate program, which provides 80% reimbursements for communication costs;
- Developed an interagency relationship with the FBI to obtain surplus technology materials;
- Implemented techSteps into grades K-8; with high school implementation to begin next year;
- Developed and transitioned libraries to library/media/technology centers at all schools.

**TRANSPORTATION**

- \*Added a transportation supervisor out of the bus operator ranks;
- \*Improved internal communications:
  - ◆ Replaced traditional radios with digital radios (GPS ready);
  - ◆ Added digital camera systems to new buses.
- \*Improved budgetary planning and expenditures:
  - ◆ Consolidated a.m. bus runs;
  - ◆ Implemented interagency purchasing to reduce costs;
  - ◆ Developed and implemented a seven-year plan to replace all vehicles;
  - ◆ Add buses that use bio-diesel;
  - ◆ Implemented interagency collaboration to sell old buses at auction for increased revenue.

OVERVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS (continued)

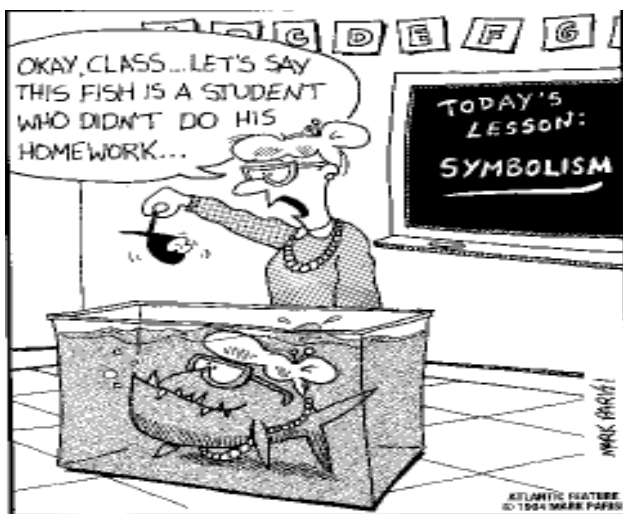
MISCELLANEOUS

- ◆ Implemented and contracted with a Grant Writer;
- ◆ A total of forty (40) grants have been funded from July, 2007 to date in the amount of \$ 4,897,270.00 for a wide variety of county school projects;
- ◆ Two schools (BMS & PMS) are presently participating in Enhancing Education Through Technology grants providing computers, other hardware, and training for staff members;
- ◆ A Title I School Improvement Grant was received for Philippi Elementary, which has allowed for professional development in technology, reading, and secured additional computers for the school.

**— Odds 'N' Ends —**

➔ The Finance Office would like to remind all personnel that the Open Enrollment period for PEIA will end on April 30. The open enrollment period for Section 125 benefits, meanwhile, will begin in May. If you have any questions about these topics, please contact county treasurer, Whitney Kines, at 457-3030 (extension 134).

➔ Facilities Update: All roofing repair and replacement projects at the Philip Barbour High School Complex are now complete...and the physical additions and renovations at Junior Elementary School are officially underway!



**County Career and Technical Students Excel At 2009-10 State Competitions**



The recent WV State Skills USA Competition in the Team Works category saw Austin Moss of Barbour County place first in Electricity. Other team members included Lacey Conrad of Lewis County in Masonry, Robert Arbogast of Upshur County in Building Construction and Clark Shahan of Upshur County in Building Construction. The team from the Fred Eberle Center has qualified to represent West Virginia at the national contest in Denver, Colorado in June.

In addition, at the State FBLA Competition held in Charleston on March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, Bobby Nutter of Philip Barbour placed first in the Client Service event. He will go to the Nationals from July 14 -17 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Finally, the State TSA Competition was held in Ripley from March 25-26. Barbour County's team of Zack Barkley and Mark Fink placed second in the Technology Dare category. Nationals will be held June 28 – July 2 in Baltimore, Maryland, and the State Department of Education has elected to send both the first and second place teams based upon their performances at the state event. Zack Barkley was also elected as a State Officer in the position of Reporter.