

## SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING 2023

The Scranton School District held its Annual Public Meeting in the elementary library on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to inform patrons of the academic and fiscal status of the school district. Superintendent Toby Cook reported the overall district goal is to provide guidance, leadership and support so that each student may achieve his/her maximum potential and become a useful, productive member of society.

Facilities in the district are all in great shape. Facility upgrades in the last year include added security in the high school entry. Visitors now must enter and go through the office. Bulletproof glass was also installed. The high school teacher's lounge was completely remodeled. New chair-back bleachers were installed on the home side of the gymnasium.

Future district projects include renovating the cafeteria. The district will apply for partnership funding for the cafeteria renovation.

Our school bus fleet is in great shape. We have no immediate plans to purchase a new bus.

Enrollment in the district as of October 1, 2023, was reported to be 432 students in grades K-12. We have had a slight decrease in enrollment over the last few years.

Elementary Principal, Lakaen Schluterman, reported the K-6 enrollment at 225 students. Position changes at SES include: Katlyn Galla –5th and 6th Grade Math; Cameron Kremer is teaching 5th and 6th Grade Science and Social Studies; Mrs. Reyes is teaching 5th and 6th Grade ELA. Elementary students utilize technology in chromebooks and iPads daily in their classroom instruction. All SES teachers are designated at Arkansas Qualified for the appropriate area.

Our high school principal, Mr. Doyle Watkins, reported the 7-12 enrollment is 207 students. New faculty and staff members include: Sheila Villareal- Math-8 and Algebra 1, Gabe Harderson -Cross Country and Track, Miranda Draper- Interventionist, Deanna Coronado- one-to-one aide. High school students are one-to-one with technology, each student being issued a chromebook for use at school and home. All SHS teachers are designated as Arkansas Qualified for the appropriate area.

The high school is presently offering the required 38 courses to meet state standards. Advanced Placement courses offered are AP Biology, AP Calculus, AP Chemistry, AP Psychology, AP US History and AP English Composition.

The distance learning lab offers classes in Spanish I, II and III, American Sign Language, Medical Terminology, Foundations of Health Care, Foundations of Sports Medicine, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Pathology, Psychology, Sociology, Abnormal Psychology, Human Behavior and Disorders, Tourism Industry Management, Arkansas Hospitality and Tourism, Fashion Merchandising, Sports Entertainment and Marketing, Financial Literacy, Visual Arts Appreciation, Computer Science Programming I, II, and III, Computer Science Cybersecurity, Introduction to Criminal Justice, Criminal Law, Digital Photography I, II, and III, College and Career Readiness, Work Ready, Drones: Unmanned Aerial Systems, Skilled Trades Manufacturing, and Orientation to Teaching through Virtual Arkansas.

Also offered through the distance learning lab as part of the Virtual Arkansas concurrent credit program are: Beginning Spanish I and II, English Composition I and II, American History, World Civilization I and II, Experiencing Art, Public Speaking, College Math, College Algebra, Introduction to Biological Sciences,

Personal Health and Wellness, and Introduction to Education. There are 20 students participating in this program, taking a total of nine classes. College credit is awarded from our partnering institution, Arkansas Tech University. Concurrent Credit American History is taught on campus by Scranton High School faculty member Shannon Warren.

The Arkansas Tech Career Center allows students in the 10th-12th grades the opportunity to take concurrent credit classes at Paris or Russellville campuses. We are also partnered with University of Arkansas Community College in Morrilton to offer students concurrent courses through the Clarksville High School Career and Technical Science program. Currently, three students are enrolled in these programs.

The high school continues to work on improving math and literacy scores. The district has purchased Discovery Education, and IXL for ELA/Math to supplement instruction. Students also receive one on one assistance from interventionist, Mrs. Miranda Draper. Students are pulled from non-core subject classes to receive additional help.

The latest available data released by the Arkansas Department of Education from the 2022-2023 School Report Card designated Scranton High School as a B School. The school was listed as having the following: Attendance Rate was 99.76% (2021), Graduation Rate was 100%, and Dropout Rate was 0%.

The Scranton Opportunity School is starting its fourteenth year and is our alternative learning program. Mrs. Shannon Warren is the lead SOS teacher, with Mr. Gabe Harderson teaching a few class periods each day. Two students graduated from the program last year, and we currently have twelve students in the program. All students are making adequate progress towards graduation requirements. In addition to academic goals, students are working on having better attendance, social and emotional skills, and career possibilities are explored as well.

Mrs. Stephanie Canada is our Gifted and Talented teacher. She reported that 73 identified students in grades 3 -12 are being served. Students may be nominated for the program by faculty/staff, parents, community members, peers, or they can nominate themselves. General nominations are received any time during the year but are especially encouraged during September and April. The students are identified on the basis of specific and consistent criteria in several areas which can indicate giftedness as outlined in the local definition. This includes above average intellectual ability, creative thinking ability, high achievement, and task commitment or motivation. No single criterion or cut-off score may be used to exclude a student from identification and placement. Referral forms are available on our school website or by contacting the GT coordinator.

### **Services offered by our gifted and talented program:**

#### ***High School (9th-12th)***

Served through concurrent credit, secondary content, Advanced Placement courses.

#### ***Middle School (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)***

Seventh and eighth grade students receive services through secondary content classes. Teachers of all core content classes have received training in providing differentiation for gifted and talented students.

#### ***Elementary (3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup>)***

Third through sixth grade students participate in a “pull-out” program for 150 minutes of direct instruction per week provided by the GT teacher/coordinator.

### ***Elementary Enrichment (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)***

Students in Kindergarten through second grade receive 40 minutes of whole-group enrichment each week. These classes take place in the GT resource room and are led by the GT teacher/coordinator.

### **Community Awareness/Communication:**

A Gifted and Talented link is on our District’s web page (referral documents, rules and regulations, Q & A section, and all district policies and procedures are available). Gifted and Talented Facebook page: Provides an opportunity to broadcast news and information to students, parents and community members. Promotes our school’s Gifted and Talented Program.

The Parental Involvement Program is facilitated by Mrs. Greta Strobel at the elementary school and Ms. Laura Simpson at the high school. Each school plans activities to get more parents involved in the education of their child. Both schools held Open House this year. Seventh grade orientation was held on August 7th. Both schools hold Parent Teacher Conferences twice a year. Elementary PI is hosting our second annual Halloween trunk-or-treat on October 27th. This will be a new experience for some students that do not get the chance to trick-or-treat. Grandparents Day is November 17th at the elementary. The elementary school normally hosts Literacy night, Write about Christmas, inviting parents to come see what their child is learning. It is scheduled for December 7th. The high school is having a series of guest speakers from families and throughout the community come into classrooms and share their expertise as it pertains to lessons students are learning. Each teacher will have at least one guest speaker come to their classroom this year. If they are unable to come in person, recordings will be made so their knowledge and experience can still be shared with students. There will be a K-12 art exhibit in the Spring. The parents and community will be invited to see the students' art projects from throughout the year. Grades and Attendance are recorded electronically in e-school. Parents have access to HAC which allows them to access the child's grade, attendance, progress reports, and final grades. The school uses an automated phone messaging system to keep parents informed of important announcements and events. The Scranton School District utilizes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and school app to keep parents updated, share pictures, and notification of activities going on around the school. We are able to push notifications to parents for the most important events.

All five school board members received the professional development as required by A.C.A. 6-13-629. Current board members include Adam Fritsche, President; Ryan Rogers, Vice President; Michael Joe Johnson, Secretary; and members Joe Koch and Carolyn Rhinehart.

The district facilities include fourteen buildings and several storage buildings and ground improvements (covered walkways, fencing) totaling \$17,544,185. The contents of the buildings are valued and insured for \$3,421,478. The district is covered by Arkansas School Boards Association Risk Management Program.

Director of Federal Programs is Mrs. Lakaen Schluterman. The district receives federal funds in Title I, Title II-A, Title VI-Reap, Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment. The full amount received is budgeted each year.

The district is financially sound at this time. We have no revolving loan debt. The district currently has two bonds. The last audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, had no findings. The district has been fortunate

enough to transfer funds over the last several years to the building fund, maintaining a steady net legal balance. The net legal balance on June 30, 2023 was \$630,911.72. Our building fund balance was \$1,862,173.09. We are continuing to maintain a steady net legal balance between \$600,000 to \$650,000. Our budget for 2023-2024 projects an ending balance of \$641,402.38. We expect to maintain a balance in this range, even with the new teacher salary increases and other legislative changes.

Superintendent, Mr. Toby Cook, took public comment on the state of the school as well as on the facilities master plan.