

Superintendent Rambling

February, 2017



The weather continues to be tolerable for February! Regular season varsity Boys and Girls Basketball programs are winding down at mid month, Likewise, regular season Junior High programs conclude at about the same time. Our online homepage calendar lists specific activity dates and times on an ongoing basis for February. [*Please support our students by attending as many school events as possible during the course of the month ahead.*](#) Our Facebook page and Twitter feeds continue to serve as important sources of information during the course of the school year. Numerous activities and important dates for February include:

February 6th : **Education/ Finance Technology Meeting @ 6:30 PM**
February 8th: **Elementary Mid-terms sent.**
February 13th: **Board of Education Meeting at 6:00 PM**
February 17th: **Half Day Teacher Inservice / Dismissal at 11:30 AM**
February 17th : **High School Boys Basketball /Senior Night @ 6 PM**
February 20th: **President's Day- No School**
February 23rd: **Elementary Pre-K Night 5:30-7:30 PM**

At our February inservice our staff will focused on continued curriculum alignment with the Illinois Learning Standards and working to enhance their chromebook instructional skills. As we approach February we will resume our efforts at curriculum alignment.

At the Board of Education retreat January 14th the annual “wish list” of physical plant improvements was reviewed along with other instructional and academic goals. Currently, the top priority of the board is water improvement. Although the water is discolored, the water is tested on a regular basis for harmful impurities and contaminants on a regular systematic basis (eg. Lead). The water has been found to be totally safe. Monitoring continues. Furthermore, the water has been chlorinated for several years now to insure its safety. An aggressive program to replace a large section of valves and galvanized pipe in the pump room will occur this spring. A new electric system to deal with fluctuations in water pressure is also being installed. Finally, a dedicated compressor for the system will be installed as well the last week in January. Going forward we will continue to monitor the system and make further recommendations to the Board of Education as needed. Clean, safe water is a priority for everyone.

On the financial front things continue to be uncertain at best in Springfield. We have been receiving our general state aid on a regular systematic basis this school year. We have not, however, been receiving periodic payments for regular education and transportation. Due to the budget situation in Springfield at best the payments will be delayed. At worst, we may not receive one or two of these payments. This lack of commitment to schools statewide makes it incredibly hard to manage school finances. We will continue to monitor the situation going forward.

A continual reminder that office hours are now posted on the website for your convenience. In most instances phones will not be answered after the times listed on our web page; please refrain from calling unless it is an emergency situation. You are welcome to leave a message on the district answering machine if would like to do so. Every effort will be made to return your call the following school day. The Jr./ Sr. High office is open from 7 AM to 3:30 PM. The Elementary Office is open from 7:30 to 4 PM.

I am as close as a simple phone call daily at 778-2204, 778-2201 or email me at sreynolds@spoonrivervalley.us during business hours. Our collective community ideas, decisions and vision will lead to a vastly improved, vibrant school district in the long haul. It takes everyone to be involved in academic success of our kids. Be a part of the civil solution and not a part of the problem by supporting staff publicly and raising concerns privately. Can spring be far away?

Happy Valentines Day!

Mr. Reynolds