

Kieleidoscope

July 9, 2015

July 1 of each year marks the start of a new fiscal year for the Kiel Area School District. Unlike other business calendars that run from January 1 to December 31, school districts end the budget year on June 30. This means that summer work is filled with preparing for the annual audit and closing out one budget year while developing the next year's budget. In addition to budgeting, we focus on facilities projects and the interviewing and hiring new staff for vacant positions.

This summer we will be finishing up facility and technology projects that were funded by the 2012 referendum. Tuck pointing at the middle school, removal of asphalt and seeding of the tennis courts, and general asphalt repair work will be completed this summer along with annual maintenance projects and a deep cleaning of the buildings.

The 2012 facilities referendum and phase I of the technology referendum will end this school year. We were very fortunate to have community support that allowed us to exceed the revenue limit for building a new Agriculture Center, remodeling the Technology Education Area and the Family and Consumer Education Rooms. In addition to this work, the district was able to replace HVAC units and repair roofs. The technology portion helped us immensely by moving forward a strategic goal of one to one Chromebooks for grades 8-12 and upgrading the technology infrastructure to handle the increasing number of devices available to students in all classrooms. This summer with the support of referendum dollars we are also able to upgrade the district's twenty year old telephone system. Another long awaited upgrade.

The Board of Education is working hard to focus on the maintenance needs of the district and has approved the use of fund balance for an upgrade to the video surveillance system and key fob entry system. In addition to these safety items, the Board approved funds to cover projects addressing priority facilities and maintenance concerns identified in the five-year maintenance plan. Last month the Board adopted a resolution to open a Fund 46 account that allows districts to designate funds to future capital improvement projects. Fund balance is not a savings account but is a cash flow account so caution is used to only use this for one time priority expenses.

We are truly grateful for the 2012 referendum for improvements to our facilities and technology needs. This support has allowed the district to upgrade and sustain our buildings and educational programs. With only six weeks of the summer left until the 2015/16 school year begins, there is a lot of work to accomplish. As is true every summer, the work will get done and we will welcome the students back to another exciting school year with upgraded, safer facilities and new technology. We thank you for your support!