



AGENDA ITEM
NUMBER VI
LETTER C

NORTH COOK INTERMEDIATE SERVICE CENTER

June 4, 2015

Dr. Debra Wilson
Superintendent
Prospect Heights School District 23
524 E. Schaumburg Road
Schaumburg, IL 60194

Dear Dr. Wilson,

The North Cook ISC is authorized by the Illinois State Board of Education to conduct Compliance Visits of the school districts located within its boundaries every four years. During January 27-28, 2015 the NCISC Compliance Team consisting of Richard Duran, Shirley Bloom, Tom Bookler, and Gene Goeglein, inspected facilities, records, policies, programs, credentials, curriculum, and test scores to determine the Prospect Heights School District 23 Recognition Status as outlined in the ISBE 2014-15 School Evaluation Form. This is a summary of the findings of that visit.

The NCISC Visiting team would like to thank the Prospect Heights School District 23 host team consisting of Superintendent Dr. Debra Wilson; Dr. Don Angelaccio, Assistant Superintendent; Cathy Anderson, Administrative Assistant, and Ron DeGeorge, Head of Maintenance for their courtesy, cooperation, and candor. The preparation for our visit was very complete and well organized. Thanks to all who assisted in this effort.

Commendations:

The Compliance Team wishes to commend the School District on the following:

1. All buildings are bright, clean, and well-maintained providing a welcoming learning environment and demonstrating the pride of everyone working and learning there.
2. The District 23 Tech Plan 2.0 provides a scheduled three year implementation of 1:1 computer devices for all students in grades 1-8. The plan begins with Grades 6-8 in 2015-16; followed by students in Grades 4-5 in 2016-17; next students in Grades 1-3 will be provided sets of devices in 2017-18 and during that same year EC and Kindergarten teachers will be provided carts with enough devices for their classes.
3. Technology has been integrated in all areas and we observed 2nd & 3rd Graders working in pairs on iPads writing captions for pictures; 5th

- Graders creating Virtual Snowflakes on iPads for Art Class; and MS Students problem solving in their Applied Tech Class.
4. Since our last visit in 2011, the district has moved to Grade Level Centers maximizing resources and equalizing class sizes at each grade level.
 5. Facilities improvements include updated lighting and the use of Geothermal HVAC which provides a more consistent climate in all areas of the buildings throughout all the seasons in addition to reducing the costs of operation.
 6. The School Board recently completed a review of all district policies and has aligned them to the IASB PRESS system thus simplifying future updating.
 7. The District 23 website is very complete and easy to navigate and staff has been expanding communication to the community using social media such as Twitter.
 8. “My Learning Plan” is an electronic tracking program enabling staff to access libraries of professional development programs, in-service programs, and other staff development programs while maintaining a log of all programs completed, thus ensuring both individuals and the district has a complete record of progress in each of these areas.
 9. Very complete documentation demonstrates that all mandated units are taught in the appropriate levels at each building.
 10. MacArthur MS has created a very successful character education program named PARR (Productive, Accountable, Responsible, and Respectful) leading to the positive reinforcement of these values.
 11. MacArthur MS, appropriately, honors veteran’s and their families on Veteran’s Day with students serving them breakfast and then honoring them at an all-school assembly.
 12. There are many other community involvement programs found in all buildings in the district such as Family Pathways to mentor Hispanic Parents; Feed My Starving Children filling bags with food for World Wide Distribution; Student Interns from Hersey HS to assist classroom teachers; and others too numerous to list.
 13. Four times a year, 6th Graders come to read to 2nd and 3rd Graders at Betsy Ross School inspiring the younger students to read more and reinforcing the reading skills and self-confidence of the older students.
 14. The Arts play an important role at all grade levels with student artwork displayed prominently, Art Club Murals, Choral Music, Orchestra & Band beginning in 4th & 5th Grade, and award winning programs in the MS culminating in a Full Symphony Orchestra and Choir.
 15. Inclusive programs for all students begin with blended co-teaching at the Pre-K level extend to the MS Special Olympics with Unified Soccer and Pom-poms Teams.

Areas of Noncompliance:

The NCISC Team found none.

Areas of Concern:

The NCISC Team found no areas of concern.

Recommendations or Suggestions for the Future:

Because the members of our team view many different school districts as part of this process, they believe they can provide some insight into areas that each district might consider in their planning for the future. With that in mind, we offer the following observations.

As mentioned previously, District 23 continues to explore and plan for innovative ways to serve students, staff, and the community. We heard discussions about providing Full Day Kindergarten in the future, but concern that space was limited. We would encourage the Leadership Team and the School Board to consider the addition of an Early Childhood Center as the natural extension of the current Grade Level Attendance Center Model. This might include expanding an existing facility or the addition of a new building – research will suggest the best uses of district resources to provide such a facility. We are confident that research efforts will be rewarded with a practical and prudent plan conforming to the desires and means of the community.

Final District Recognition Status:

Attached you will find the completed “2014-15 School Evaluation Form” that delineates the other specific items reviewed by the NCISC Team. All items are in compliance with state rules and statutes. Prospect Heights School District 23 is determined to be in “FULL COMPLIANCE” and this recommendation will be forwarded on to the ISBE.

Once again, the NCISC Compliance Team would like to thank everyone at Prospect Heights School District 23 for your thoughtfulness and assistance in completing this process. Congratulations, you are doing an exemplary job.

Respectfully,



Bruce Brown
Executive Director
North Cook Intermediate Service Center