

MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 9:05 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 3/31/17

Good Morning GISD. What another busy week!

- We had some excitement Tuesday night as the **straight line winds wreaked havoc** on our area. We lost **power at AMS** and had to do some last minute rearranging of their day. The **students got a free day** at home, and the **staff spent their day collaborating**, checking on students at BTC and observing others. We also had a roof blown off of one of our portables at AES, but otherwise we came out OK. Thanks to all who were **up early making plans** and trying to make this as smooth a day as possible. **Thanks to our great bus staff** for being ready to run an additional route and getting our students home safely. We announced that we were going to run buses at 9:00, and by **9:12 all students were gone!** That may be the **quickest non-emergency evacuation of 800 students in the history of public schools, ha!**
- At the board meeting Monday night, we announced that we are going to **nominate our School Board as Region 11's Honor Board of the Year!** They have been so supportive of the **transformational changes we have made in GISD over the past few years** and believe me, this does not happen everywhere. Their support is a real key to us changing **our facilities, our focus on authentic learning**, and supporting our **great staff at GISD**. We will be working the next couple of months on their nomination packet and we hope that the entire DFW area gets to learn more about the great support we have in GISD.
- We also released and discussed the **UTA's Highest and Best Use Report** (feasibility study) at our board meeting. For those of you who would like to see the report or **use this as a model for your classes** on how to write a quality report, you can find the link to the report here. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4TwOZongYBhbC15Q1BzRGNLZzg/view> We will be working with Weatherford College, the City of Granbury and other entities to insure those facilities and land that we vacated are put to great use in our community.
- Congratulations to our **UIL Academic competitors!** **Granbury High School finished 3rd overall in academic competition**, 41 points shy of runner-up. First place teams and individuals placing 1st-3rd, advance to Regional Competition, April 7-8, at Prosper High School. Along with our two **Speech and Debate** students who are advancing, **Granbury**

High School is sending 14 students to regional competition. Thank you to ALL our competitors and coaches for such a successful showing.

- I was in attendance Tuesday night as our **GHS Baseball team** got a **great win over Centennial**. All of our spring sports continue to be impressive and are making a strong showing for **post-season play**.
- Our **GHS Bass Team** had 5 teams out of 11 qualify for the regional tournament. To qualify they must fish a minimum of 3 tournaments and be in the top 50% in points at the end of the season. To qualify for State they must finish in the top 50% at Region. Region will be held at **Lake Palestine on April 22**. State will be held at **Ray Roberts on May 20-21**. Good luck to our anglers as they continue to compete!

Legislative Update: It is getting really busy in Austin as bills are starting to get passed out of committee and on to their respective bodies for full votes.

Yesterday, the Senate voted out the **“voucher bill.”** With a **vote of 18-13** it passed the Senate and **will now move to the House**, where it is expected to get less enthusiastic support. An amendment was introduced that would have schools who take vouchers **administer the same tests that public school students take** (so there could be some comparison on results). That **amendment failed by the same 18-13 vote**. **Our Senator Birdwell voted FOR the voucher bill and AGAINST the amendment.**

In another bill that educator groups are extremely upset about, the **Senate passed SB 13**, which is a **bill that would take away your right to payroll deduct your Association dues for ATPE, UEA, TSTA, etc.** The Senator who introduced the bill said that government should not be in the business of collecting dues. Interestingly the bill exempts firefighters, police, and EMT employees. It leaves **public school employees, correctional officers and some state employees** without an **easy, secure way of paying association dues**. In the debate, it was noted that **no one had complained about this, no entity had said this was a problem**, and many people believe **this is an attempt to silence the voice of teachers** because of our collective stance against vouchers. This bill also heads to the House for consideration. **Senator Birdwell voted FOR this bill, as well.**

Emails this week:

From BTC: Thank you, thank you to all the **AMS teachers who came out to BTC** during the power outage and visited with their students. **It means so much** when they get to see familiar faces and keep that connection with their campus!

From a Parent: I would like to say thank you to our **bus drivers** for their hard work and especially to **Mr. Torres** for making my son's **bus ride home so special**.

From Parents: We wanted to let you know what an **exceptional program is within the walls of Brawner**. We have had an **awesome experience** with the transition to Granbury ISD and wish we would have moved sooner (from a neighboring district)! After all, we have adopted **the Brawner way**. **"Learning for all whatever it takes!"** Have a wonderful remaining 2016-2017 school year.

From District Staff: Just wanted to let you know how much I continued to be impressed with one of our newer educators, **Karl Kreusel at GMS**. He has been instrumental in helping us and students with the new 8th grade math transition into Algebra I. Yesterday during testing, he dressed very professional in order to model for his students **"dressing for success."** What a gift our kids have in Mr. Kreusel as a teacher in more ways than math!

From AMS: A huge **"Thank You"** goes out to **Ron Holmgreen, Randy Leach, Scott Campbell, Terry Slemmons, Brian Caruthers**, and all of the **morning bus route staff** helping transport students from AMS back home when we did not have the electricity for the day. The building was too dark to even let students inside, and everyone jumped in and helped take care of students first! Thanks to all for helping a bad situation smooth and safe for students and families!

From **Rich Teaching**, if a classroom feels safe, students know that only good things will happen to them while they are attending. They will drop their guard, become less oppositional, and take learning risks. When students don't feel safe, or they are unsure about the environment, all bets are off. **Creating an upbeat, emotionally positive class climate is no Pollyanna idea**. The science is rock solid. **Create and maintain norms** to foster a rich environment. **Students need to know you will protect them from bullying, and you will not embarrass or humiliate them in front of their peers**. This warm, uplifting climate allows students to flourish and bloom.

Have a great weekend and **GO PIRATES!!**

JL

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