

MYERS, CHERIE

From: LARGENT, JAMES
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 10:11 AM
To: GISD-Staff
Subject: Supt Weekly 1/20/17

Good Morning GISD, I trust you are having another great week as we move into the fast-paced Spring semester and all the activities that will take place over the next few months.

- Congrats to our **swimmers** on their **4-peat district championship** last night! Our **boys and girls both won district** last night and had great performances all around. We will have a lot of swimmers representing us at regionals.
- I met with my **SSAC (student) group** this week. We had a great meeting as always and I can tell you **they are proud of their school!** They love the **collegiate feel** of the high school, the new **furniture, cafeteria, CTE and fine arts spaces**, and the **many opportunities** they have to take classes of their choice. They like having their **teachers available in the teacher's commons**, and they love the **specialized classrooms** they have access to. I know I **learn more than they do when we meet**, but it is always good to have a dedicated time to talk to our students and get their thoughts.
- Our **theater program** is putting on a production of **Grease**, starting tonight. There are shows all weekend and I hope you will take the opportunity to get out, support our kids, and see a great show!
- Today is **Inauguration Day** for our new president. It is a day that is always interesting to watch as we witness the **peaceful transition of power** from one administration to the next. No matter what your political views, it is a great demonstration of democracy and we wish President Trump much success in tackling some very difficult issues. We also wish President Obama and his family a graceful transition to civilian life and some well-deserved rest.

Legislative Update: On Thursday, Senator Kel Seliger and Representative Dan Huberty had a joint press conference announcing companion bills that would **make Individual Graduation Committees (IGCs) permanent**. Currently, only **13 states still have passing state exams as a requirement for graduation** and almost **all of those have some sort of "escape clause"** similar to what the IGCs offer for students. Few oppose the continuation of IGCs, but those that do are vocal and will likely force a fight to keep these alive.

Early this week, the **Senate and House filed wildly divergent budget proposals**, reflecting their different priorities. **Senator Jane Nelson** filed the Senate budget. **Her budget comes in even below the figures projected to be available by Texas Comptroller Glenn Hagar last week.** The **Senate proposal includes cuts in health and human services, public education, and higher education.** The senate cuts in public education are estimated at **\$1.5 billion.** While the Senate budget accounts for funding population growth in schools, it does so using local property taxes, rather than funds coming directly from the state budget.

The **House, in contrast, proposed a budget that is higher than that proposed by the Senate,** and notably higher than Hagar's projections. The **House budget supports enrollment growth, as well as an additional \$1.5 billion** that could only be spent if the legislature reforms the school finance system. The House budget also includes **additional spending on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.** The House is proposing to pay for these programs through cuts, deferrals, and possibly dipping into the Rainy Day Fund, which is estimated at over \$10 billion. (Perhaps this is the rainy day we have been saving for.) In a press release, Speaker Straus said, "The initial 2018-19 budget **puts additional resources into public education, child protection, and mental health** while increasing state spending by less than 1 percent."

If you are interested in more analysis on the **A-F debacle**, you can read this from Moak-Casey and Associates. <http://moakcasey.com/email/viewemailarticle.aspx?emid=599a657e-41e2-48f6-a477-4cd7dc431d0a&emaid=15904>

Emails this week:

From a parent: A HUGE thank you **Coach Schmidt and his coaching staff** that has come out to the **middle schools to watch and support the girls play** their basketball games. It means a lot to the players and parents that you have taken the time to support the upcoming players. Your collaboration is appreciated.

From GHS: I wanted to take a moment to brag on the **Health Sciences teachers at GHS, Sonya Byrd, Tishia Gray, and Christy Pieren.** They are doing a great job in preparing our students for entering the medical profession. My family was able to experience this first hand when **one of our students (Caden Davis) assisted a nurse** in helping with a family member who recently had to visit the hospital. If the care and concern he showed is any indication, we are in safe hands in the future (medically speaking).

From a parent: My (student) is really excited to be working with **Ms. Jackson at Mambrino** on the Fort Worth Stock Yards project. It seems we'll be taking a family trip or two in the spring

so he can look around. Honestly, I'm **thrilled he is having so much fun**. We thank her so much for keeping him inspired and having fun with learning!!!

From **Rich Teaching**, every day you get up and come to work **there's a narrative in your head**. The narrative is you making plans for what will happen, what you will do, and how others might respond to you. Now, ask yourself, "Was that an average day?" **What if you could have a great day every day?** You can, and **some people do**. But, to get there **you have to make changes in your life** that would fulfill the criteria for a great day. **What would you need to do differently?** Would you get up 10 minutes earlier? Would you do a brief workout? Eat a smarter breakfast? Learn something new? The point here is not to tell you what to do. This is all about **your daily narrative**.

When you remember you have choices in life, **you can change your life's story**. You can **change your students' stories because you are their role model**, and you can change your own. Many teachers at your school probably assume they were **just hired to teach**. Yet, **research shows the value of relationships as a strong academic achievement catalyst**. When you foster trusting relationships rich with support for every student, you'll make a powerful impact on building lives. You can have a **classroom and school that has fewer problems and more joy**. Plus, **your students are more likely to stay in school and graduate**. Put relationships first, and you've set the stage for academic success.

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

JL

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