

DEWITT SCHOOL BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
October 13, 2015

The Board of Directors of the DeWitt School District met in a special meeting for its Annual Report to the Public at 6:00 P.M. on October 13, 2015, in the Board Room of the Administration Building.

Present were Board Members Kenneth Graves, Johnny Lockley, Shawanna Wansley, Drew Whiting, Brad Koen and Bruce Morgan, along with Superintendent Lynne Dardenne.

The following information was provided at this meeting.

### DeWitt Schools Present Annual Report to the Public

School Accreditation Standards and Act 35 of the State of Arkansas require that districts report their status of academic performance to the public annually. The purpose of this report is to report on the status of accreditation, progress toward goals and plans to correct deficiencies.

The DeWitt School District's report to the public was presented prior to the regular board meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2015. Principals and department directors were present to provide the members of the audience with information about the district and individual schools.

Dr. Dardenne reported that all schools within the district met or exceeded standards for accreditation with no citations or probationary items for any school in the district. The State of Arkansas issued a grade for each school in the state for the first time in 2015. DeWitt School District scored as follows: DeWitt Elementary School B; DeWitt Middle School C; DeWitt High School C and Gillett Elementary A. The Office of Education Policy at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville recognized Gillett Elementary and DeWitt Elementary for their scores on the state science test.

This year's enrollment numbers are in and the DeWitt School District presently has 1270 students enrolled in grades K-12 with 40 additional students in the two Pre-K programs, ABC at Gillett and a new Pre-K classroom at the DeWitt Elementary School. This number is up from 1247 for K-12 during third quarter of the 2014-15 year.

More than 60% of the students attending DeWitt School District qualify for free or reduced lunch. The lunchroom personnel prepared and served a total of 146, 903 lunches, 56,173 breakfasts and 631 after school snacks in 2014-15. New selection choices for students at the middle and high school campuses include a grab and go breakfast and chef salads for high school students.

The District's average ACT score for 2015 was 18.7. The state average is 20.4. DeWitt School District presently offers 7 Advanced Placement classes with 120 students enrolled and 11 Pre-AP

classes. In addition, concurrent credit classes are offered to high school students through a partnership between the school district and Phillips Community College.

State test scores for subjects other than science have not been released yet. Students took the PARCC test in 2015. The state has recently withdrawn from PARCC and students in grades 3-12 will now participate in the ACT Aspire and ACT testing program for the 2016 testing cycle. Ninety-eight students are presently served through Gifted/Talented classes

The District is the largest in land area of any in the state of Arkansas covering 922 square miles each day. Presently, 14 bus routes are active traveling 1451 miles each day and transporting 785 students to and from school every day.

The District provides a full range of services for students who qualify for special services. These services include resources classroom setting, self contained classrooms, speech, physical therapy and occupational therapy.

Parent involvement is strong within the district. Watch D.O.G. Dads, PTO, Backpack Program, Dragon's Den, and numerous booster organizations are just a few of the ways parents get involved.

Students attending elementary school in the district have access to core academics taught by highly qualified teachers, activity classes, guidance services, counseling services through The Pointe, Accelerated Reader, Reflex Math, and a host of other programs. Fifth grade students are now offered data and input technologies classes.

Technology additions at all facilities include increased bandwidth, Chromebooks, new desktop computers in labs and libraries, interactive whiteboards and televisions to convey student and parent information. In the not so distant future, all four schools and the Administration Office will be linked through a MAN which allows schools to share information.

The District actively partners with the Arkansas Leadership Academy. Presently two principals have participated in the Master Principal program. Several teachers and additional school leaders will be attending Leadership Academies throughout the school year to build leader capacity in all schools.

The district and individual schools are constantly seeking ways to enhance the educational experience of every child through grants. DeWitt Middle School and DeWitt High School are able to assist students and parents in gaining knowledge of college and post secondary programs through GEARUP, a federally financed grant program secured by Phillips Community College. Students also benefit from other grants including: FitnessGram, Hooked on Fishing, Schoolyard Habitat, First Robotics and Archery in the Schools. Recently, the district applied for a Project Lead the Way grant. If funded this grant will provide the hardware and software for students in middle school and on into high school, to study engineering, robotics, flight and forensics.

If you would like more information about the DeWitt School District and the programs in place, please call your child's school and speak with the building principal or call the Administration Office and ask for Dr. Lynne Dardenne, Superintendent.

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

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BRAD KOEN, PRESIDENT

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SHAWANNA WANSLEY, SECRETARY