

DEWITT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
November 8, 2016

The Board of Directors of the DeWitt School District met in a special meeting for its Annual Report to the Public at 5:30 p.m. on November 8, 2016, in the DeWitt High School Media Center.

Present were Board Members Brad Koen, Drew Whiting, Shawanna Wansley, April Herring, and Johnny Lockley, along with Superintendent Dr. 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, November 8, 2016. 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 issues a letter grade for each school in the state. DeWitt School District scored as follows: DeWitt Elementary School C; DeWitt Middle School C; DeWitt High School B and Gillett Elementary B.

This year's enrollment numbers are in and the DeWitt School District presently has 1277 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.

66% of the students attending DeWitt School District qualify for free or reduced lunch. The lunchroom personnel prepared and served a total of 149, 467 lunches and 58,706 breakfasts during the 2015-16 school year. 7,730 Grab and Go breakfasts were served at DeWitt Middle School and DeWitt High School.

The District's average ACT score for 2015-16 was 20. The state average is 20.2. DeWitt School District presently offers 7 Advanced Placement classes with 65 students enrolled and 6 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.

Students across the district took the ACT Aspire test last spring. District wide data shows weaknesses in writing and strengths in English Language Arts. One hundred twenty seven students are presently served through Gifted/Talented program.

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 1080 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.

The new middle school is equipped with new desktop computers in labs and the library and interactive panels in each classroom. Across the district, desktop computers, Chromebooks, Smartboards, and iPads are available for students and teachers to facilitate learning and for instructional purposes. All four schools and the Administration Office are linked through the new state network.

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. The district received a Project Lead the Way start up grant. 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.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: _____

BRAD KOEN, PRESIDENT

SHAWANNA WANSLEY, SECRETARY