



# Schoolhouse News



**August 13, 2010**

The Schoolhouse News will be sent out and posted each week, or as items are collected, to give you an opportunity to quickly see some of the latest news items. These items have been sent individually in the past and we hope this approach will help your inbox. You may follow the provided link if you wish to see more details on a particular item.

**New job openings this week:**

- Dance Marathon and Kids Caring and Sharing Coordinator. For more information contact [jfields@rileykids.org](mailto:jfields@rileykids.org).
- Elementary Counselor Concord El. School, Elkhart. For more information contact Katy Scukanec [Kscukane@concord.k12.in.us](mailto:Kscukane@concord.k12.in.us).
- Elementary Teacher, Silver Creek Primary School, (Temporary Contract 8/16/10-09/10/10). Contact Principal Kim Baumann at (812) 248-7250 for further information. Please submit letters of application no later than August 13, 2010.
- Special Ed/English Teacher, Silver Creek Middle School. Contact Principal Reid Bailey at (812) 246-4421 for further information. Please submit letters of application no later than August 16, 2010
- Licensed language arts teacher, 8<sup>th</sup> grade. to fill a medical leave for 8 weeks only. This will be a temporary position and will end in October. Please have applicants send resume to me. Warren Twp. Marion Co. Stonybrook Middle School. Jimmy Meadows, Jr., Principal. [jmeadows@warren.k12.in.us](mailto:jmeadows@warren.k12.in.us)
- HS Spanish Teacher needed at Batesville High School. Contact Sherri Preston, Principal, at [spreston@batesville.k12.in.us](mailto:spreston@batesville.k12.in.us) if you know of a qualified candidate.
- The School Town of Highland is accepting applications for the following vacancy for the 2010-11 school year: Middle School Music. Please apply to our website: [www.highland.k12.in.us](http://www.highland.k12.in.us), or submit a letter of interest and resume to: Terry Mucha: [tmucha@highland.k12.in.us](mailto:tmucha@highland.k12.in.us)



The Education Roundtable met on August 3 and dealt with two items. They set cut scores for the Algebra I and English 10 ECA, and they adopted the Common Core Standards. For documents related to this meeting go to <http://www.in.gov/edroundtable/2332.htm> and look for the August 3 meeting.

- Algebra I            Pass: 564            Pass+: 665
- English 10        Pass: 360            Pass+: 589

In both cases, the pass cut score that was recommended and adopted was higher than what was originally recommended by the teacher review panel. Based on discussion during the meeting, look for this item to be revisited and for the cut scores to be raised.

- The Common Core Standards (CCS) for English/Language Arts and Mathematics were adopted. Indiana does have the flexibility to modify the CCS by 15%. This could occur given that our existing standards were extremely strong. There are fewer CCS that are focused on essential skills to allow for deeper treatment of the content. All the standards have a strong basis in college and career readiness.
- Indiana is also a founding member of a consortia that continues to look at Common assessments. The intent is that common assessments will be in place in 2014-2015. These assessments are intended to provide a measure of College and Career Readiness and provide further accountability given the common platform. These assessments may also feature “through-course testing” which means that students will take the test at key points during the year.
- A related development is the move to align teacher standards with the Common Core Standards. See [http://www.doe.in.gov/news/2010/08-August/common\\_core\\_first.html](http://www.doe.in.gov/news/2010/08-August/common_core_first.html).



The State Board of Education met also on August 3 following the Education Roundtable. To see the agenda and view the video recording for this meeting, go to <http://www.doe.in.gov/stateboard/video.html>. The minutes for the June meeting and for the August meeting have not yet been posted.

#### Highlights of the meeting were:

- Approving the cut scores for Algebra I and English 10 ECA and the IMAST assessment.
- Approving the Common Core Standards
- Approving the name changes for school improvement. The current labels will change to A, B, C, D, and F. An exact criterion for these categories has not yet been set, though you can look at the current categories and see the corresponding relationships. The Indiana DOE will also communicate with the Federal government for the purpose of separating the Federal AYP from our PL 221. This could eliminate the cap placed on schools who perform well under PL 221, but fail to make AYP.
- Approved that in 2010-2011, schools in grades 3-8 will test students online in at least their highest grade level. Schools will also conduct and report the results of a network test using the CTB utility beginning in September 2010. This was not an agenda item, but was passed. Discussion centered on forcing schools to begin online assessments given the lack of participants in the voluntary phase. Look for the Common Core Assessments, which are targeted for 2014-2015, to be entirely online.
- The State Board heard information regarding 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Student Literacy. This will be a important topic to cover this fall in preparation for submitting your school’s reading plan in spring, 2011. Please see [www.doe.in.gov/super/2010/04-April/042310/documents/sb\\_grade\\_3\\_reading\\_plan.pdf](http://www.doe.in.gov/super/2010/04-April/042310/documents/sb_grade_3_reading_plan.pdf) for more information.



Dr. Dennis Brooks, Senior Advisor to Dr. Tony Bennett met with Gerald and Todd on Thursday, 8/12 to discuss DOE initiatives and to receive feedback on recent DOE meetings and communications. This was a positive meeting and we appreciate his time and thoughts.



## TODAY'S TOP STORY

Sponsored by:



### [Obama Signs Bill Aimed at Saving Teacher Jobs](#)

The \$10 billion goal is to keep more than 160,000 teachers on the job, but the measure would cut funds for literacy and teacher training.



For more stories, visit [Education Week's homepage](#).



### IYI announces: **PROMOTING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: The Most Important Factor**

Opening **school** bells are ready to ring across Indiana, but many **educators are faced with a difficult challenge**. The strongest influence on academic achievement can seem far beyond the teacher's control.

That primary factor in student success is **parental involvement**, and several **school and community strategies** can encourage more parents to be active at school and in their child's schoolwork. [Read more in IYI's monthly newspaper column](#).



**IYI \$\$ GRANT TIP OF THE WEEK \$\$\$\$ GRANT TIP OF THE WEEK \$\$** Depot dollars! The **Office Depot Foundation** funds a **wide range of programs for children and youth**. Grant range: **\$1,000**. Deadline: **November 15, 2010**. [More info >>>>](#)



The **Pride Fundraising Company** has a link to aid your school in organizing healthy fundraising events. IASP members can save \$100 by using the promotion code "IASP" when you register for your fundraising event. <http://www.pridefundraising.com>.



If you are downsized from your administrative position and would like assistance, please contact **Gerald Mohr** at 317-891-9900 ext.240, or 317-490-8807.



This week in Tennessee they declared a sales tax holiday for back to school items. Great idea to consider that is good for parents, kids, schools and business.

Best wishes for a great start to your school year. Please contact us if we can help in any way.

Gerald and Todd