



Franklin

COUNTY SCHOOLS

Superintendent Rhonda C. Schuhler, Ed.D

Superintendent's Report December 9, 2024

General Updates:

State of the District

We have scheduled a "State of the District" for our school community on Thursday February 13th at 6:00 pm at Franklinton High School auditorium. This event will highlight district progress with strategic plan goals, but it will also showcase our students and staff and the great work taking place in our schools as we prepare students for life beyond the classroom. We will have performances by student groups and our culinary arts program will provide refreshments. Our Board Chair will provide a welcome and will recognize our County Commissioners at this event. We would like a cross-section of our school community to attend, so we will be inviting our Parent Summit participants, Franklin County Economic Development, the Chamber of Commerce, our Teacher Advisory Council, and our Strategic Planning Committee members. We will also advertise, as this is open to the entire community.

Town Halls

As part of our Strategic Planning process, we will have town halls on the following dates/locations:

Louisburg Town Hall Tuesday January 7th 6:00-8:00 pm	LMHS Media Center
Bunn Town Hall Tuesday January 14th 6:00-8:00 pm	BHS Media Center
Franklinton Town Hall Tuesday January 21st 6:00-8:00 pm	FHS Media Center
Additional Town Hall February 4th 8:30-10:30 am	PD 2

We are asking that each school in their respective zone has key school community members present, but these are also open to the public.



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Communicating the Value of Public Schools

As past President of the North Carolina Association of School Administrators (NCASA), I have been asked to chair a statewide initiative that will take research conducted by the Neimand Collaborative and apply that research to promoting public schools at a local level. The Neimand Collaborative will work with NCASA leadership to provide districts with a toolkit and marketing materials that we can customize. The goal of this initiative is to ensure that our community (and communities across the state) have a better understanding of the value of public schools in preparing every child to be successful. I believe that this will be a great opportunity for our district to not only gain tools to enhance our efforts in promoting FCS within the county, but also for us to receive some positive statewide attention that can assist with our recruiting efforts.

Facilities Work Session

As previously discussed, we are in need of scheduling a facilities work session to consider next steps with several key projects, including FES grant proposal, FMS building envelope, naming facilities, facilities usage, Bunn EMS building, and other topics as requested by the Board of Education. Tentative recommended date: Monday January 27th 4:00-7:00 pm.

Blueprint Goal 1: Preparing FCS Students for College, Career and Life Beyond the Classroom

On Wednesday, December 4, FCS offered a School Choice Fair for students and their families to explore options at Louisburg Magnet High School and Early College. This event highlights what each school has to offer and provides an opportunity for students and families to ask questions of school staff. Applications for both high school options are now available and are due by March 7, 2025. The Dual Language program at Royal Elementary will also be accepting applications for new kindergarten students for the 2025-2026 school year. Due to the nature of the program, the program will also accept a limited number of first grade students. An interest session and open house will be scheduled prior to the start of the application process. Applications will be available on March 3, 2025.

Blueprint Goal 2: Achieving Student Success in Academic Areas

The district Curriculum and HR team met today with each of our low performing schools so that they could provide us with an update on the work taking place to move their schools out of low performing status. This discussion included a review of their check-in data and plans for addressing areas of concern, walkthrough data, PLC work, observation data, etc.

Blueprint Goal 3: Creating a Safe, Orderly and Caring Environment for Students

The arrival of colder weather has placed our heating systems under significant strain. Bunn Elementary School experienced a temporary closure for one day due to a boiler failure; however, students and staff returned the next day with temporary heating solutions in place while the necessary boiler repairs were completed. Additional maintenance efforts have been required at other locations to ensure all classrooms remain adequately heated. The implementation of ARPA funds will play a crucial role in addressing ongoing challenges with some of our most problematic HVAC systems.



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In addition, select staff members are participating in the Behavior and Threat Assessment Management (BTAM) training. This state-mandated training is essential for BTAM teams at both the school and district levels, ensuring preparedness and compliance with state requirements.

Blueprint Goal 4: Recruiting, Supporting, and Retaining High Quality Staff

Our efforts to recruit and retain high-quality teachers have been focused on offering licensure support to educators working to meet requirements for clearing their licenses. We have also continued to provide guidance to teacher assistants pursuing their education degrees, ensuring they have the resources and encouragement needed to advance in their careers. Additionally, we participated in Curriculum Night at the Early College High School and FCS Choice Schools and Program Information Night to raise awareness for our TEACH program. This initiative is dedicated to inspiring and supporting high school students who aspire to become future educators within our district, strengthening our pipeline of homegrown teaching talent.