

Charger notes June 23, 2012

Greetings from WWG Schools,

I hope that everyone is having a great summer and that you survived Fun Days! Now it's time to gear up for our pageant season in Walnut Grove and the weekends in the park. The schools seem nearly as busy as 2 months ago with all the camps, room cleanings and boiler installation happening. I never get tired of complementing our summer cleaning employees that take such pride in their jobs and it shows by how nice the WWG facilities remain year after year. The money that we have invested in our infrastructure has paid off and this summer we are putting the finishing touches on our future with new boilers in the Westbrook east campus and in Walnut Grove. I am so proud of what we have in this district and what it offers to our employees, our kids and to you the public.

As we plan for the next school year 2012 – 2013, we approved a preliminary budget Monday night that predicts revenues of \$5,698,403 and expenditures of \$6,290,821. Our boiler project is in the area of \$625,000 and we paid for \$115,000 of it this fiscal year and will pay the other \$510,000 next year (after July 1st). We have the cash on hand and will still have a safe fund balance moving forward. With the boiler project factored out we are looking to be deficit spending this year by \$40,000. All I can say is that with a more mobile society, our partisan legislature and our Department of Education, our budget predictions are simply a shot in the dark hoping to be off only by \$50,000 - \$100,000. Student numbers drive our budget and we simply are graduating more students than we bring in. Five years ago we had 3 years of graduating classes in the 50's and the last few years have been classes in the 40's. Our K-4 classes next year are all in the 20's with 2 teachers per class. That is wonderful news for now but will not last much longer. Fortunately we have been able to take advantage of cooperating with our neighbors as well as not replacing all of our retirees. We will continue to gauge our budget by looking at our beginning of year enrollment, approving a revised budget in January and then waiting to see what the Legislature does or doesn't do.

It was a very nice weekend to have the annual Westbrook Fun Days. Due to helping my father in law, it was the first parade that I missed since I arrived in 2001! I really appreciate how folks can pull together to make it all possible. I really hope that we can get more involvement in the future because these clubs always appreciate more help. If you are new to any of our towns in the district or have not been involved in clubs in the past, I invite you to contact me and I'll gladly help hook you up with a club that best suits your needs. Some are busier than others and that's a given but get out there and make a difference in our small towns and try to give more than you take, it's a great feeling! I'm quite sure you will feel welcome and rewarded if you give it a chance.

Have a great July!

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