

May 31, 2007

To: Smitty

From: Monty Aldrich

THOUGHTS FROM THE UNIT OFFICE...

It's been a very busy end to the school year as far as students finishing the last days of attendance. Since that time, many of our employees (including myself) have constantly been asked, "Why do you work in the summer?" Others often say, "I bet you are glad for a break with the kids being gone". I'd like to take some time to answer these questions on behalf of those who work during the summer.

The custodians and maintenance staff are extremely busy stripping and refinishing all floors in each building which amounts to some very hard and strenuous work. There is a great deal of other summer requests including door repair, painting, deep cleaning, and other major requests that are required to get everything ready for the upcoming school year. Obviously you've viewed the major renovation of the high school building that is taking place this summer as well. The high school will take on a brand new look, and with that, custodians have to work with and around that situation. We also plan on sealing blacktop, repairing equipment, cleaning up the grounds, and prepping the outdoors for a fresh look. And at the bus barn, all buses are being repaired and cleaned to renew the fleet for the coming year. You'll also notice that a softball field is being constructed inside the track area.

For the Unit Office staff, I think June is probably the absolute busiest month of the school year. It's hard to comprehend, but our fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30. With June ending, all financial transactions including purchases, billings, attendance (General State Aid), grants and spending, transportation expenditures, and all other expenditure reports are to be finished. At the same time, the year is reversing itself with all new requisitions, grant applications, financial transactions, etc. becoming due with deadlines in June. As with most governmental agencies, we are absolutely bogged down with reports, paperwork, requests, etc. The secretaries and administrative staff are very busy in each building finalizing the same items mentioned above, and are responsible for a tremendous amount of data reporting.

So, these people all work behind the scenes all summer to insure that everything is on schedule, prepared and shined to meet expectations for the new school year. This is why they all work in the summer. And about being glad that the kids are gone as far as getting a break? To me, having them here on a daily basis is much more fun than any other time.

On another note, we all try and reflect on how successful the school year has been. As a spectator on the street told me recently, "If you sit and listen to the coffee shop opinions, this has been a really rocky school year. If you talk to some of the teachers and some of the kids, you find out that it's been really rewarding". Although I can't remember

enough to quote word-for-word, that's close enough to tell the real story. The great experiences that can be told of successful learning opportunities that have taken place far outweigh the magnified ugliness that some dwell upon. My goal is to make this an awesome place to go to school. I cannot do it alone, but our entire staff can. When we are totally in it for that reason, it'll work. If we fight among ourselves, it won't. If we commit to the real cause, it will work. We have many wonderful people on staff that enjoys the privilege of working here with kids every single day. When we all do, we will be awesome!

Please enjoy your summer and keep the kids safe. Registration is on Monday, August 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and on Tuesday, August 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. More details will be coming. Until then, if you have questions regarding any information that we may help you with, please let us know.