

Daniel Boone High School in NCLB list

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By Denise Larive
For Journal Register News Service

While one of the Daniel Boone School District's buildings has been taken off of the No Child Left Behind Early Warning and Watch List a different district building has been placed on the list.

Assistant Superintendent Anne Marie Traynor said Birdsboro Elementary Center's special education reading program has met the proficiency requirement of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and has been removed from the list.

The High School's economically disadvantaged sub-group, which has 42 students, didn't meet the proficiency requirement because 95 percent of the students in that group didn't take the PSSAs (Pennsylvania System of School Assessments) last spring.

School districts with buildings on the Early Warning and Watch List are assigned a school improvement plan and a timeframe for improvement in order to meet the proficiency requirement and make AYP.

The newest data is from last spring's PSSA tests that Traynor said the board must accept before Oct. 31.

Traynor said the new proficiency rates for math and reading are 67 and 72 percent, an increase from 56 and 63 percent, and the 2014 target is still to have 100 percent of students proficient in math and reading.

She said Pennsylvania has not yet accepted the offer of a waiver that would freeze the 2010-11 targets for one year.

"Pennsylvania has not accepted it in case it [the proficiency rates] would jump higher next year, but we should know by Christmas," said Traynor.

In other business:

Superintendent Dr. Gary L. Otto said he will investigate the costs of a security audit for the Daniel Boone High School Stadium that has recently had five to six break-in attempts.

"Nothing real bad has happened yet," said Otto. "It may be expensive to protect our investment, but the damage would add up eventually."

Board Chairman Andrew Basile said the district is considering a contract with Expense Reduction Analysts, Reading, which would identify cost reductions for the district.

"They have experts in every field," said Basile. "We could renegotiate our waste management contract. We're in the preliminary stages of looking at that - if we would sacrifice quality - and that it would improve the district's bottom line. We want more information on what they are doing with other school districts."

Board Member Walter Sheehan said the company is saving an unidentified Montgomery County school district \$125,000 annually through information technology and food service reductions.

Otto said the district has received \$69,025 in activity fee money from fall athletics and marching band participation.

The activity fee line item in the 2011-12 budget is \$154,000.

Monica Hamill, Birdsboro, said she was representing people who had questions about the activity fee and if club dues helped subsidize the athletic programs; she said one child's fees and dues has already reached \$344.

Otto and Basile said club dues are controlled by the club and help fund trips, pizza parties, etc., that are decided by the club.

The board will vote Oct. 24 on whether to adopt the district's first Teleconferencing Policy that would allow board members to phone or skype into board meetings that they are unable to attend.

Board candidate Connor Kurtz, Douglassville, asked the board to table its vote until new board members are seated on Dec. 1.

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