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PRESS RELEASE

Cheering in the Board Room – Notable Academic Progress

The Butler County Board of Education held their regular Board meeting for January Thursday night in the Boardroom. The meeting was highlighted with a presentation by Director of Curriculum, Donna Ash.

Ms. Ash shared the success of outstanding student growth on academic literacy-based programs DIBELS and STAR reading assessment. She showed how the system's kindergarten teachers were able to move 62 out of 80 students that began the year in intensive (low-level) and strategic support to core (on-level) support. Nine other students moved from intensive to strategic. Mrs. Ash was equally enthusiastic about the fact that the district was able to maintain 123 out of 124 students in core status despite the rise in benchmark targets from the beginning of the year to the middle of the year.

Ms. Ash also took time to acknowledge the success of McKenzie's 1st-grade teachers specifically before moving to the STAR data where she shared the success of teachers growing students at high rates. Although no specific names were shared during the STAR portion, the teachers that were highlighted in this segment were from W.O. Parmer and Greenville Elementary.

"I am extremely proud of the growth that I am seeing and the work that teachers and administrators are doing to make it happen," Ms. Ash said.

"I have been a Superintendent in Board meetings for nearly 15 years now and have not seen an audience cheer like those attending the Board meeting tonight," said Superintendent John Strycker. "And the cheering was for good reason. This type of growth rate is virtually unheard of. I am very optimistic about our future under Ms. Ash's leadership," he said.

The Board then received a monthly financial update from CSFO Brandi Mosley.

During the Superintendent Report, Dr. Strycker encouraged the Board to continue to promote the much necessary Ad Valorem increase.

"I know you, as Board members, understand the importance of this funding for our school system. I encourage you to continue to promote this proposal until the January 29 election is over," said Strycker.

In other Board Action, the Board approved the Financial & Bank Statements for October and November, and the January Personnel Report. The Board also set a date and time for the next Board meeting. **The next Board meeting will be held at Georgiana School, Thursday, February 21 beginning at 6 p.m. in the library.**

The recognition for the month was the Board of Education. For the recognition, Strycker read *The Man in the Arena*, by Theodore Roosevelt. The Board was then given a variety of appreciation gifts from school Principals.

Win or lose the upcoming Ad Valorem Election, this Board, "...shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat – Roosevelt."

Please call John Strycker, Superintendent with any questions or concerns at (334) 382-2665.