

Support Services Quarterly Newsletter

February 2017



Thoughts from Anthony

Colleagues, we are all grateful to Aurora voters for approving a \$300 million Bond Program that will support all APS students and staff. Support Services staff and I have been busy putting the finishing touches on the Five Year Bond Project Implementation Plan that was presented to the Board of Education for review February 21, 2017. With careful planning, attention to detail and a focus on aligning our work with the strategic objectives articulated in APS 2020, I have no doubt that when all is said and done, Support Services staff, along with our internal and external partners will once again make our community proud with the execution of this bond program. Please see this link <http://bond.aurorak12.org/> for more information on the 2016 Bond Projects.

Respectfully,

Anthony



Construction Management - Jennifer Alley, Courtney Luhrsen, Allison Pearlman, -
Fredrick Boening, Chris Camp, and Susan Martini

M&O - Taylor Smith, Anthony Lucas, Levi Robinson, Andrew Draper, Jessica
Gonzalez Franco, Nohemi Dias, Crestil Parrish, Sharon Morgan

Security - Matt Salazar

Transportation - Constance Cordova, Robert Leonard, Dwayne Sims, John DeCunzo,
Christian Paulsen, Cory Mickaliger, Jose Nunez, Deb Postema, Terri Wash, Adrina
Solis, Ashanae Hopkins, Benjarmin Wills, Carla Sanchez, Darren Thompson, Lesley
Rodriguez-Herrera, Mark Shuster, Precious Wilson, Rafael Dominguez-Jose,
Thomas Seehusen

Happening Around Support Services

Athletics - Last year the Facilities Rental office moved their billing and scheduling process to a new software system called RSchool. After a few months when everyone, including the staff, had to adjust to all things new, the system is finally paying dividends! Customers love the fact that they can instantly see if a date is open at a particular school and they are showing their appreciation by booking space at an incredible pace. The high school athletic secretaries can now book all their school events and it instantly shows up on the facilities calendar, which is helping to prevent conflicts and making everything more efficient. Staff at elementary, middle and K8 schools love the easier scheduling system that comes with having a system that is simple enough for the public to use without any training.

Construction - Thanks to the support of Aurora voters who approved the 2016 bond measure, Construction Management & Support is growing. Executing a successful bond program requires a passionate staff with skills in building design and construction management.

IT - Cheyenne Williams, IT site technician, collaborated with Sable 4th and 5th grade students and staff to present a parent technology day at a recent Sable parent meeting. Fifty parents were in attendance and very engaged in learning and accessing educational websites. 6 interpreters were available for our Spanish, Somali, Burmese, Karen, Tigrinya and Oromo families.”

M&O – There were four schools who earned cash incentives this semester reflecting their students’ efforts demonstrated with digital badges and a sustained reduction in energy use. Those schools are:

- Lyn Knoll Elementary’s Green Team - \$334
- Arkansas Elementary’s Radical ROARing Recyclers Club - \$560
- Peoria Elementary’s ELD class - \$1,881
- Columbia Middle School’s 8th grade PBL class - \$2,987

Planning – School/Community Gardens program:

- Currently three active school based community gardens, four under construction and one in planning
- A school community garden planned in partnership with COA as part of Nome Park expansion
- Collaborative partnership between APS, DUG, schools, Anschutz student groups, City of Aurora and many community groups
- Financial and volunteer support from dozens of local and national companies and organizations
- Over \$200k in grants received for school-community gardens (including grants for North and Hinkley)
- Gardens span district and City from Fulton to VPP and represent all demographics of APS
- Several gardens have specific themes based on community they serve – For example, Fulton tagged their garden a Taste of Home because it supported immigrant community, Sixth Avenue started by Gym Teacher to support kids outdoor activities, East garden is being planned by ESS teacher to support special needs students

Security - In keeping with the mission statement to “*create and maintain safe, adaptable, and highly functional schools*” Security Dispatch provides support 24/7/365 support. Our dispatchers can be reached by calling extension 28484 or 303-367-3060 at any time, day or night. So if you need to talk to a live person after-hours, APS Security Dispatch always answers.

Transportation

We are close to having a full staff of drivers.

We currently have 114 drivers

There are three drivers in training and three drivers that are attending the next scheduled class



Shout Out

Transportation

On February 17, 2017, Sean Walsh picked up (sped) students at FoxRidge. He saw two small students walking along the roadside. He stopped and picked them up and continued to Vista Peak Exploratory. He escorted them into the office. In following up with the staff, the two student were busy playing and missed the bus. So the kindergartener decided they should walk. Powhatan Road is a busy street with no sidewalks and about 4.8 miles away from the school. Had Sean not seen or acted as he did, any number of things could have happened. Thank you, Sean for watching out for our students.



Debra Combs (Utility driver) and Nicole Heather (Para) will be competing in the annual Transporting Students with Disabilities and Preschoolers (TSD) school bus roadeo from 3-17-17 thru 3-19-17 in Frisco, Texas.

Link to event - <http://www.stnonline.com/tsd/roadeo.html>

Debra and Nicole were qualified to compete at the National after finishing second at the state event conducted on May 7th, 2016 at the Jefferson County Training Facility, Transportation had 18 participants at this event. At this event they were scored as a TEAM in the following areas;

- Pre-trip inspection
- Driving and backing a bus
- Loading, unloading and securing students in wheelchairs
- Evacuating a special needs bus
- Student behavior.

- Shout out to the Transportation Department. During the January 5 closure, no accidents!!

Maintenance and Operations



2016 City of Aurora Business Recognition Award:

Congratulations to Julie North and Craig Wright. They received the 2016 City of Aurora Business Recognition Award for Sustainability. Julie and Craig were presented the award at the annual awards dinner held at the Aurora Municipal Center December 8th 2016.

Recognition highlights included their work in resources conservation; cost savings; development and integration of science, math, and writing curriculum for sustainability; use of software to track efforts and promoted action-based learning; and student-led programs.

This award exemplifies operational excellence that encompasses work from the boiler room to the classroom. Just remarkable! I commend the Natural and Renewable Resources team for their vision, perseverance, and dedication to creating opportunities for our students to excel and saving APS significant dollars along the way.

I also want to recognize support for the Natural and Renewable Resources program received from several of our technicians, site-based custodians, teachers and our exceptional students. They make our program second to none!

Food, Coats, Hats, and Gloves Donation:

The Maintenance and Operations team raised \$555 in December with their extreme generosity. A team of thrifty shoppers purchased food to give away two plentiful baskets to provide holiday meals for two APS families. Additionally, the funds raised purchased 16 awesomely warm and trendy coats (8 girls and 8 boys), a pile of gloves and hats for the APS community. Maintenance and Operations teamed up with the Aurora Welcome Center to distribute the clothing and bring a number of smiles, happiness and warmth to the APS community this winter.



I Thought Santa Drove a Sleigh, Not a Bus



Who Swings Your Mop

When Aurora Public Schools Area Coordinator and Trainer Michael Ward began work as a custodian nearly 30 years ago, he considered it a broken dream. Today, he proves custodial careers are meaningful professions to be taken seriously in his first published book "Who Swings Your Mop."

The recently-released book details ways for custodians to move beyond the typical "janitor" role and present themselves as professional colleagues in the workplace. Touching on everything from email writing skills to interview tips and how to address work-related confrontations, Ward's advice is sure to propel custodians' careers across the nation.

For more information about this one-of-a-kind resource, visit whoswingsyourmop.com!



APD Goes to Boston

In December, the Boston Elementary School 5th and 6th graders invited officers from the Aurora Police Department to come over to get to know us! Everyone left with new friends, warm hugs and a great time!

<https://youtu.be/q4tiGoGEywo>