

## SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING 2024

The Scranton School District held its Annual Public Meeting in the elementary library on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to inform patrons of the academic and fiscal status of the school district. Superintendent Toby Cook reported the overall district goal is to provide an education through guidance, leadership and support so that each student may achieve his/her maximum potential and become a useful, productive member of society.

Facilities in the district are all in working order. We acquired the Rocket Zone preschool facility and property in February 2024. Rocket Zone will continue to operate the preschool. A new cafeteria is our next project. We are in the process of obtaining partnership funding before moving forward with construction.

Our school bus fleet is in great shape. A new bus will most likely be purchased next year.

Enrollment in the district as of October 1, 2024, was reported to be 448 students in grades K-12. After a couple of years of declining enrollment, we are excited to say we are up nearly 25 students over the end of last year.

Elementary Principal, Lakaen Schluterman, reported the K-6 enrollment at 237 students. Position changes at SES include: Andrea Hammer moved from 1st Grade to 2nd Grade. Jessica Wilson moved from 2nd Grade to 4th Grade. Mrs. Dixon moved from 4th Grade to 5th Grade. Amanda Brewer is our half day counselor. We added a certified aide in the 1st grade classroom to assist Mrs. Davis since our enrollment in that class grew by 11 students since last year. Elementary students utilize technology in chromebooks and iPads daily in their classroom instruction. All SES teachers are designated at Arkansas Qualified for the appropriate area. The latest available data released by the Arkansas Department of Education from the 2022-2023 School Report Card designated Scranton Elementary School as a C School.

Our high school principal, Mr. Doyle Watkins, reported the 7-12 enrollment is 211 students. New faculty and staff members include: Amanda Brewer - 11th and 12th grade English, Katie Kersey - Family and Consumer Science, and Allen Warren - 8th grade math and Algebra 1. Megan Gibson moved from Family and Consumer Science to Alternative Learning, and Sheila Villareal moved from 8th grade math and Algebra 1 to Geometry, Algebra II, Math Ready, and Pre-Cal. High school students are one-to-one with technology, each student being issued a chromebook for use at school and home. All SHS teachers are designated as Arkansas Qualified for the appropriate area.

The high school is presently offering the required 38 courses to meet state standards. Advanced Placement courses offered are AP Biology, AP Calculus, AP Chemistry, AP Psychology, AP Physics, AP US History and AP English Composition.

The distance learning lab offers classes in Spanish I, II and III, Medical Terminology, Foundations of Health Care, Foundations of Sports Medicine, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Pathology, Psychology, Sociology, Abnormal Psychology, Human Behavior and Disorders, Tourism Industry Management, Arkansas Hospitality and Tourism, Media Communications, Advertising & Graphic Design, German, Fashion Merchandising, Sports Entertainment and Marketing, Financial Literacy, Visual Arts Appreciation, Computer Science Programming I, III, and III, Computer Science Cybersecurity, Introduction to Criminal Justice, Criminal Law, College and Career Readiness, Work Ready, Drones: Unmanned Aerial Systems, Skilled Trades Manufacturing, Agribusiness Management, Natural Resources Management, Engineering, Accounting, and Orientation to Teaching through Virtual Arkansas.

Also offered through the distance learning lab as part of the Virtual Arkansas concurrent credit program are: Beginning Spanish I and II, English Composition I and II, American History, World Civilization I and II, Experiencing Art, Public Speaking, College Math, College Algebra, Introduction to Biological Sciences, Personal Health and Wellness, Introduction to Education, Human Development and Learning Theories, and Integrating Instructional Technology. There are 28 students participating in this program, taking a total of 12 classes. College credit is awarded from our partnering institution, Arkansas Tech University. Three students are also earning Concurrent Credit from the University of the Ozarks for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Arkansas Tech Career Center allows students in the 10th-12th grades the opportunity to take concurrent credit classes at Paris or Russellville campuses. We are also partnered with University of Arkansas Community College in Morrilton to offer students concurrent courses through the Clarksville High School Career and Technical Science program. Currently, three students are enrolled in these programs.

The high school continues to work on improving math and literacy scores. The district has purchased Discovery Education, and IXL for ELA/Math to supplement instruction. Students also receive one on one assistance from interventionist, Mrs. Miranda Draper. Students are pulled from non-core subject classes to receive additional help.

The latest available data released by the Arkansas Department of Education from the 2022-2023 School Report Card designated Scranton High School as a B School. The school was listed as having the following: Attendance Rate was 99.76% (2021), Graduation Rate was 100%, and Dropout Rate was 0%.

The Scranton Opportunity School is starting its fifteenth year and is our alternative learning program. Mrs. Megan Gibson is the lead SOS teacher, with Mr. Gabe Harderson teaching a few class periods each day. Six students graduated from the program last year, and we currently have thirteen students in the program. All students are making adequate progress towards graduation requirements. In addition to academic goals, students are working on having better attendance, social and emotional skills, and career possibilities are explored as well.

Mrs. Stephanie Canada is our Gifted and Talented teacher. She reported that 89 identified students in grades 3 -12 are being served. Students may be nominated for the program by faculty/staff, parents, community members, peers, or they can nominate themselves. General nominations are received any time during the year but are especially encouraged during September and April. The students are identified on the basis of specific and consistent criteria in several areas which can indicate giftedness as outlined in the local definition. This includes above average intellectual ability, creative thinking ability, high achievement, and task commitment or motivation. No single criterion or cut-off score may be used to exclude a student from identification and placement. Referral forms are available on our school website or by contacting the GT coordinator.

**Services offered by our gifted and talented program:**

**High School (9th-12th)** - Served through concurrent credit, secondary content, Advanced Placement courses.

**Middle School (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)** - Served through secondary content classes. Teachers of all core content classes have received training in providing differentiation for gifted and talented students.

**Elementary (3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup>)** - Participate in a "pull-out" program for 150 minutes of direct instruction per week provided by the GT teacher/coordinator.

**Elementary Enrichment (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)** - Served through 40 minutes of whole-group enrichment each week. These classes take place in the GT resource room and are led by the GT teacher/coordinator.

**Community Awareness/Communication** - A Gifted and Talented link is on our District's web page (referral documents, rules and regulations, Q & A section, and all district policies and procedures are

available). Gifted and Talented Facebook page: Provides an opportunity to broadcast news and information to students, parents and community members. Promotes our school's Gifted and Talented Program.

The Parental Involvement Program is facilitated by Mrs. Greta Strobel at the elementary school and Ms. Laura Simpson at the high school. Each school plans activities to get more parents involved in the education of their child. Both schools held Open House this year on August 8, 2024, along with seventh grade orientation. Both schools hold Parent Teacher Conferences two times each year, once in the fall and another in the spring. Elementary is hosting our third annual Halloween trunk-or-treat on October 31st. Grandparents Day is November 22nd at the elementary. The elementary school hosts a literacy night, Write about Christmas, inviting parents to come see what their child is learning. It is scheduled for December 12th. The high school is having a series of guest speakers from parents and others throughout the community to come into classrooms and share their expertise as it pertains to lessons students are learning. Each teacher will have at least one guest speaker come to their classroom this year. If they are unable to come in person, recordings will be made so their knowledge and experience can still be shared with students. There will be a K-12 art exhibit in the spring online. The parents and community will be invited to see the students' art projects from throughout the year. Grades and attendance are recorded electronically in e-school. Parents have access to HAC which allows them to access the child's grade, attendance, progress reports, and final grades. The school uses an automated phone messaging system to keep parents informed of important announcements and events. The Scranton School District utilizes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and a school app to keep parents updated, share pictures, and notification of activities going on around the school. We are able to push notifications to parents for the most important events.

All five school board members received the professional development as required by A.C.A. 6-13-629. Current board members include Adam Fritsche, President; Ryan Rogers, Vice President; Michael Joe Johnson, Secretary; and members Joe Koch and Carolyn Rhinehart.

The district facilities include fourteen buildings and several storage buildings and ground improvements (covered walkways, fencing) totaling \$17,544,185. The contents of the buildings are valued and insured for \$3,421,478. The district is covered by Arkansas School Boards Association Risk Management Program.

Director of Federal Programs is Mrs. Lakaen Schluterman. The district receives federal funds in Title I, Title II-A, Title VI-Reap, Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment. The full amount received is budgeted each year.

The district is financially sound at this time. We have no revolving loan debt. The district currently has two bonds. The last audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, had no findings. The district has been fortunate enough to transfer funds over the last several years to the building fund, maintaining a steady net legal balance. The net legal balance on June 30, 2024 was \$627,699.32. Our building fund balance was \$1,953,600.33. We are continuing to maintain a steady net legal balance between \$600,000 to \$650,000. Our budget for 2024-2025 projects an ending balance of \$656,348. We expect to maintain a balance in this range, even with the new teacher salary increases and other legislative changes.

Superintendent, Mr. Toby Cook, took public comment on the state of the school as well as on the facilities master plan.