

Jim Knott

High School Board Report

High School Principal

June 10, 2024

The school year wound to a close for students with final exams on May 21-23. Teachers finished up on that Friday with one more contract day to work over the course of the summer. Since that time, we have gone into “summer mode” which includes updating handbook policies, preparing and supervising summer school, administrative meetings, and generally planning for the 2024/25 school year. I have also spent some time reflecting on the previous school year, noting areas for improvement, and setting professional goals for next school year.

Our summer school session at the high school began on Monday, June 6 and will run through Friday, June 24. The program includes 15 sessions from 8-11 in the morning. Students who need credit recovery are invited and must attend a minimum of 12 sessions. Katie Richards, Heather Cox, and Trey Baker are coordinating and teaching this year’s summer school. Our program is available only to DC West students and the cost is \$100. We have 14 high school students attending. New High School Counselor Katie Richards stated, “With this being my first year helping with summer school, it has been great to experience the process while getting to know a few of the students. Ms. Cox and Mr. Baker have a great system going and have been very helpful with getting the students and myself acclimated. The students in summer school have started the first week strong!”

As is the “new normal” in education, we have struggled to hire two high school special education teaching positions for next year. However, we have been able to meet our needs for next year and I wanted to give you a brief update on what it will look like. First, we have hired a high-quality half-time (actually .62 FTE) special education teacher for next year. Her name is Carleen Rietz and is a former high school para at Westside. We have also hired former DC West Elementary Special Education Teacher, Mekenna Haahr for three days a week. On the two days she is not here, long-term sub, Beth Reule will fill her schedule. To round out the changes, Middle School Special Education Teacher Lisa Masters will teach half days at the high school along half days in the middle school. Although it is more fragmented than usual, I believe we will continue to provide outstanding service to our special education students and families.