

Breakfast with Superintendent Brad Schneider
Nov. 17, 2017 – Lynnville Elementary

The meeting began with the introduction of Principal Gene Raber, who has served at Lynnville Elementary for 15 years! Mr. Raber is a “Kids First” Principal at this A+ school. He thanked the PTO for providing such an impressive breakfast buffet.

Mr. Schneider reviewed the extensive process used in deciding whether to close or delay schools during poor weather. Know that **safety is always the first priority** (and that, whatever the decision – some people won’t agree with it!) Parents and children need to **discuss their family plan** if there is an early dismissal or late start. Check with your school to make sure they have your current phone number, or you won’t receive the phone call if schools are delayed or closed.

On days with snow, Mr. Schneider and others drive the roads in different parts of the county, they consult with local & state highway personnel & law enforcement and local meteorologists. A decision is made by 5:45 am, and distributed by phone, local stations, Blackboard Connect. **If there is no call, etc., then school is running on time.** If most of the main roads are clear, there will likely be school – we can’t wait until all subdivision and county roads are perfectly clear.

Also, if out one day, sports and practices are cancelled. If schools are closed longer, high school (only) coaches may use some discretion whether to practice. But, the student-athletes will never be punished if they don’t make it on a day that the school is closed.

School Safety: Mr. Schneider discussed how there have been some recent school closings in neighboring counties due to potential threats against the schools. No weapons or credible threats were found in these recent cases. Social Media contributed to the chaos.

All schools in Warrick have **TipText**: if you know of bullying or a potential threat, you can text your concern to **812-641-1518** – All cases are investigated. Our best defense is to communicate with our children that if you see something, say something.

Warrick Schools have active shooter drills with local police participation. They are intense, but also an unfortunate necessity in order to be prepared. We practice the Standard Response Protocol. We want to be welcoming schools, but also balance that with safety.

Mr. Raber suggested that each of us contact out local Legislators to voice our **concern about testing & funding for our schools**. Did you know we do not have social workers in each of our schools? There is currently no funding available. We could **save \$30 million** by eliminating the ISTEP/ ILEARN testing and utilizing the existing NWEA testing instead. Every state needs to have a system of assessment, and while we do want rigorous standards, we don’t need the extra time and money wasted on extra testing for the sake of testing. We could use tests that other states employ.

A recent study by Wallet-Hubb ranked Indiana 49th on per-pupil spending. Think about that. Some politicians will say we receive more money per pupil than previously, however, they fail to account for money being taken away from other sources, so the net effect is negative/less money per pupil.

When it comes to supporting our public schools, **The Indiana Coalition for Public Education gave D’s and F’s to some of our local politicians: Ron Bacon, Holli Sullivan & Wendy McNamara.** You can see the full report card here: http://icpe2011.com/uploads/Report_Card_Handout.8.22.pdf. We need to elect Representatives who support Public Education!

ISTEP: For 2016, Warrick County School Corp. received an 'A'. there we 12 'A' schools, and 5 'B's.

Technology: Warrick Schools plan to start issuing Chromebooks for the 1:1 initiative. This will start with the High Schools. There will be a rental fee (hopefully around \$50/yr.) similar to book rental fees. But, we hope to decrease the books. Warrick is also continuing to improve bandwidth in the schools.

Fundraising: Fundraising is a necessary evil in our schools. At the Elementaries, the PTOs provide many things the schools can't afford (or aren't allowed) to buy. However, for the middle & high schools, Mr. Schneider is concerned that the fundraising for extra-curricular activities and sports is getting out of balance. It is getting impossibly expensive to participate in these activities. No teams need new uniforms every year, let alone numerous uniforms. He's worried about excluding potential participants and the toll on the parents.

Kudos! Mr. Schneider recognized the "Changemaker" scholarships awarded to six Boonville & Castle High school students, who were all awarded First Place. This is a full-ride, 4-year scholarship awarded by University of Evansville! Teams work to solve local, national or global challenges through innovation and creativity. You can read more here: <http://www.courierpress.com/story/news/education/making-the-grade/2017/11/09/two-schools-win-ue-changemaker-challenge-competition-get-full-tuition-scholarships/847727001/>

He also gave shout outs to the amazing performances by the CHS Marching Knights, and CHS Boys Soccer for finishing State Runner-Up for Class 3A.

The next meeting will be held at **Sharon Elementary December 15th 9-11 am.** (Note the date change)

Please call the WCSC office at 812-897-6050 if you would like to attend a meeting. You may email your questions or ideas for topics to **bschneider@warrick.k12.IN.us**.

In case you missed them, here is a link to the October Breakfast with Brad minutes:
<https://www.warrick.k12.in.us/schools/docs/Breakfast.pdf>

Minutes taken by Karen Bradshaw