

Hartford Public Schools
District 94
512 Ludlow Street
Hartford, Arkansas 72938

Board of Directors

President – Eric Lanman
Vice President – Gary Raines
Secretary – Sharon Hyde
Member – Marty Blanchard
Member – Vickie Walker

Administration

Teresa Ragsdale, Superintendent
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HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS HOLD ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

September 8, 2014

A group of approximately 15 interested citizens was a part of the Annual Report-to-the-Public held at the Hartford Elementary School Cafeteria on September 8, 2014. Annually, the administration reports to the public the status of the district. The event began at 6:00 pm followed by the School Board meeting.

Teresa Ragsdale, Superintendent of Schools, gave the report. Members of the Board of Education were introduced and it was reported that all members would receive the mandatory six (6) hours of professional development required by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) for veteran Board members before the December 31, 2014, deadline. Mrs. Ragsdale reminded those in attendance the functions of the School Board as stated by the Arkansas School Board Association.

She reported that the enrollment of the district K-12 was lower than last year at this time with a total of 293. This will be the second consecutive year the enrollment will be below the state required 350 minimum.

Mrs. Ragsdale then talked about the Elementary School. She announced that the elementary school did not meet their Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) per state guidelines for Math and Literacy, thus making them a “Needs Improvement” school. The Math scores increased on the state Benchmark exams from 2012-2013 to 2013-2014. Eventhough the Math scores increased they were still below the state’s required AMO. The Literacy scores increased also on the state Benchmark exams. If the scores increase as much this school year as this last year, AMO will be met.

She then visited with the group about the high school. The high school, like the elementary, is a “Needs Improvement” school. The scores for the high school Math and Literacy increased from 2012-2013 to 2013-2014. Also like the elementary, if the growth this year is as much as last year, AMO will be met.

Mrs. Ragsdale then turned her attention to the district. She reported on the federal budget, National School Lunch Act funding, Professional Development funding, Special Education funding, state foundation aid funding and the budget process for the 2014-2015 school year. Mrs. Ragsdale stated that Title I funding would be used at the elementary school with funding going to parent involvement, professional development, salaries and benefits, technology, homeless, and material and supplies. Titles IIA, VIB, and VI Federal will be used district wide to supplement the programs at both the elementary and high schools. She then addressed the issue of the district being in “350 Distress”. She reported that the

financial status of the district is strong. The district ended the 2013-2014 school year with less than 350 students. According to Arkansas state law, this classifies the District in “350 Distress”. This means that like on fiscal distress the District has to have all debt and contracts approved by the Arkansas Department of Education before the School Board can approve them.

Mrs. Ragsdale then turned to some general information. She reported that all teachers teaching in the core areas of math, English, science, and social studies must attain Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) status by the end of this year per state guidelines. She also reported that the Arkansas Consolidated School Improvement Plan (ACSIP) would be submitted by the October 1, 2013, deadline. This plan will represent actions the district has planned to address improvement of student performance as well as the disbursement of all federal funding. Mrs. Ragsdale closed by announcing that the gifted and talented program serves a cross section of students and is approved through the Arkansas Department of Education.