

CALICO ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

OCTOBER 18, 2022

5:30 P.M.

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| U.S. Pledge of Allegiance, Opening Remarks, and Superintendent's Report | Jerry Skidmore |
| HS Counselor/Testing Program Report | Stephanie King |
| Gifted/Talented Program Report | Kish Pool |
| Parent Center Facilitator/Elem Counselor | LaDonna Franks |
| Federal Programs Report | Mike Mason |
| Safety Report | Jaden Whitfield |
| Elementary School Report | Bailey Whiteaker |
| Secondary School Report | Anita Nordrum |
| Questions | All |
| Dismissal | Jerry Skidmore |

Annual Report to the Public

October 18, 2022

The 2023 school year has gotten off to another great start. We have a fantastic faculty and staff ready to meet the educational needs of all students. We have partnered with Families Inc. to provide the social and emotional needs of students.

The Calico Rock School District meets the standards set forth by the Arkansas Department of Education including certification of faculty, either by traditional methods or Alternative Licensure Plans (ALP), ARPEP, formerly known as the APPEL program approved by the department of education.

The board of directors consist of Chris Brandon, Buster Branscum, Kelley Killian, Jay Knight and Jennifer Brickell. A first year board member is required to get 9 hours of professional development by December 31st of the following year. The initial 6 hours of training is provided in the New Board Member Institute by the Arkansas School Board Association. State law requires board members to get 6 hours of professional development each year thereafter. Board members who get more than the required 6 hours can carry over hours to the next year.

Our district has a wellness committee who meets quarterly to discuss ways to improve the overall health of employees and students through nutrition and physical activity and it is facilitated by Anita Nordrum, the high school principal.

The parental involvement program provides parents with information on how to best help their child succeed educationally. This program is facilitated by LaDonna Franks, Elementary Counselor and Preschool Director.

On the financial side, the district currently has a bonded indebtedness of approximately \$2,685,000. It was last restructured in 2021 and the restructuring of that debt created a savings of \$276,664 over the life of the loan and the bulk of the savings will be experienced in the first three years. The outstanding interest rate is .93%. The loan was obtained to pay for the high school, the gym and fine arts building, elementary classrooms, elementary cafeteria, elementary band room and auditorium. The annual payment for the 2022-23 school year will be \$279,063 and Stephens Incorporated in Little Rock is the financial agent for our district. Our debt to assessment ratio is 8.9% which is very close to the state average.

The district has 3 administrators and 39 certified/licensed employees with a payroll of \$1,827,765 which is an increase of \$9,000 from last year. There are 35 classified employees with an approximate payroll of \$763,766, an increase of \$71,000. Title 1, Medicaid and ARMAC funds are used to pay \$159,550 in both licensed and classified salaries. Last year the legal ending balance was \$817,952 in the operating fund compared to \$772,863 the previous year.

We are a Provision II school district which means that we are able to provide meals at no charge to our students again this year. This program is new and is accomplished through an application process with approval of the school board. Basically, the district pays for the meals our students eat this year. Then, next year other funds will be provided to pay for the meals.

Our food service is provided by Opaa, a food service management company. Opaa is a company that contracts with schools to provide meals for students, staff and guest. We also have a food pantry program that is facilitated by Ms. Chelsie Moss. This program helps families by providing essential food items like meat, noodles, canned goods and juices. We realize these are difficult times and we are glad to help.

Bridges is another civic organization that provides food, clothing, and other essential items for families in need. It is headed up by Amanda Thornton and staffed by community volunteers.

New in academics this year, we have three new curriculums being implemented. They have been state approved and we expect to see even more progress from our students academically. My Perspectives curriculum is new to the 6th grade this year but we have been using it in grades 7-12 for a few years now. Benchmark literacy and enVision math are the new curriculums in grades K-5.

We are proud to have partnered with the Izard County Sheriff's department by providing a substation on our elementary campus. This has been a very successful partnership for the past several years now. This has allowed the citizens of Calico Rock to have a much faster response time when in need of law enforcement and a deputy is on our campus every morning and at other times throughout the day.

The division of Facilities and Transportation inspects our buildings twice a year and each time their findings are minimal. They are very complimentary and tell us how clean the facilities are in comparison to other schools they visit. Our facilities are well maintained by a very capable staff who clean and repair daily to make sure the students of Calico Rock are provided with an environment that is conducive to learning. Also, the district is an asbestos free district with an abatement plan on file in the maintenance department files.

I would like to thank all of the patrons of the Calico Rock School District for their patience and support.

For more information visit our website at <http://pirates.k12.ar.us>

October 18, 2022
Report to the Public
Stephanie King, Test Coordinator and Counselor

This year is the last year for ACT Aspire testing for the 3rd-10th grades. Next year, the state will be moving forward with a new company: Cambium Assessment Incorporated. It is supposed to be more tied to Arkansas state education standards. There will be interim assessments with this new testing program that will allow teachers the ability to test on standards they are teaching.

Our scores for the spring of 2022 showed growth across all testing areas for the district. As a district, we grew in proficiency by 8% in English, 12% in Reading, 5% in Science and 6% in Math. We are above the state average in proficiency for English, Reading and Science, and we are tied with the state average in math proficiency. 75% of the individual grades across the different subject areas showed growth from 2021. Overall we were happy to see the growth and have put new things in place this year to continue that trend.

We continue to use IReady for our K-2 assessment piece. As well as using this for our 3-10 as a monitoring and diagnostic tool. We have given one diagnostic so far with the remaining 2 being in January and May.

Each spring, our juniors take both the ASVAB and the ACT test. In addition, the state is providing access to the ACT WorkKeys assessment for all students before they graduate. They can get different levels of certification showing work ready skills.

We continue to work on our student success plans in the Kuder portal in advisory time at the high school. It is also a great resource for students to explore and learn more about careers. In addition, it serves as a time to address academic issues and social and emotional learning topics.

Red Ribbon Week is the last week of this month. We will be showing the Arkansas PBS 7 Days documentary at the high school that addresses the opioid crisis in Arkansas.

In accordance with ACT 190, The Comprehensive School Counseling Act of 2019, a school must formulate a comprehensive school counseling plan to be updated each year. Within the plan are the mission and vision of the program as well as services provided and an annual calendar. Each year, one or more goals are developed. Last year, the goal was to increase student awareness of positive school environments. This year's goal is to increase student knowledge of what bullying is and the appropriate way to respond and report. Lessons on topics relating to this will be taught and the students will have a hand in recognizing other students for their positive contributions by nominating each other each week.

Gifted & Talented Report to the Public 2022-2023

4-12 Grade GT qualifying/selection committee consists of

Kish Pool- GT Coordinator

Bailey Whiteaker- Elementary Principal

Stephanie King- High School Counselor

Melva Brannon- High school School Science Teacher

Ashley Coley- 3rd Grade Elementary School Teacher

4th-12th Grade Gifted & Talented Advisory Committee

Kish Pool- GT Coordinator

Bailey Whiteaker- Elementary Principal

Stephanie King- High School Counselor

Jamie Whiteaker- High School GT Parent

Kitty Dockins-Elementary School GT Parent

4th-6th Grade students are participating in a 30 minute GT class, five days a week with Mrs. Pool. They are currently participating in the Y.E.S. for Arkansas competition (Youth Entrepreneurship Showcase) this year. Calico Rock GT students have participated in the competition three times and all three times, they finished in the Top 25 in the state as well as bringing home a 2nd place finish, twice. The top 25 will be announced December 2, 2022 and the final Virtual Expo Day Competition will be held January 20, 2023.

At the end of the 2021-2022 school year, the high school GT students went on a field trip to the aquarium in Branson, while the elementary GT students went to Fritz's Adventure in Branson.

On November 11, 2022, the GT program will present the Annual Veterans Day Honor Ceremony to the entire school district as well as the community of Calico Rock. The Ceremony will be live streamed for further representation as we honor our hometown heroes. We will be sending out letters with the entire student body as well as sending the information to all of the area media.

GT students will attend Quiz Bowl, Chess Tournaments, and Spelling Bee as usual this year.

Currently, there are 12 students in grades 4-6, 41 students in grades 7-12, and 1 identified transfer student in the 3rd grade, for a total of 54 qualifying Gifted and Talented students district wide.

K-3rd Grade students receive 30 minutes per week within the regular classroom.

Classroom teachers are certified to meet the needs according to the state guidelines.

4th-6th Grade GT students receive the state minimum required 150 minutes of services each week.

7th-12th Grade GT students receive the state minimum required 30 minutes of services each month.

The GT coordinator is available to the GT students above the required state minimum service minutes.

Family and Community Engagement Facilitator Report for Annual Public Meeting October 2022
LaDonna Franks

The Parent Center is located in the elementary school. The center has multiple games to build math, literacy, science and social studies skills for multiple grade levels. The center also has books, pamphlets, videos, and DVDs. The parent center also offers computer and internet access for parents. Information and activities for families and the community can be found by following the Calico Rock Elementary Facebook page or signing up for text and email alerts at pirates.k12.ar.us.

The Pirate Nation Parent Group has scheduled The Penguin Patch Holiday Shoppe for December 5th - 9th. We will be utilizing the Parent Center space for this fundraiser. The parent group is trying to rebuild a bigger and better group, with representation from parents at both the high school and elementary school level. Please contact Kitty Dockins for more information on meetings and upcoming events at 870-291-2070.

The Calico Rock City employees and Mayor Greg Hamby continue to support the elementary school in the car line every morning and afternoon. We appreciate their continued support in keeping our students safe.

The family and community engagement survey can be found on the Pirate website at pirates.k12.ar.us. Please reach out and communicate with us to help us better serve you.

Students in pre k-sixth grade enjoyed a special black and orange pep rally on Wednesday, October 12. Students were introduced to the dance team members, high school band members, and the Pirates basketball team members.

There was a Family and Community Engagement event on Wednesday, September 28. Mrs. Mindy Woods and her FACS classes prepared finger foods for the event. Mr. Mike Mason presented some cyber safety tips. Jana Cowgill educated the group on human trafficking. Parents then had an hour to anonymously text questions they had about their children to a therapist that answered several questions via Zoom. These topics ranged from mental health, bullying and how to better communicate with children in particular situations. This event was free to the public. Parents will have an opportunity to receive more information about these free mental health resources at parent/teacher conferences on Thursday, October 20, 2022.

Report to the Public 2022
LaDonna Franks, Elementary School Counselor

The district goal for the 2022-2023 school year is to increase student knowledge of what bullying is and the appropriate way to respond and report. The counselors have implemented a k-12 initiative using the G.U.I.D.E for Life from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), along with the Lions Quest program. Counselors will implement the Pirate PALS (Positive, Accepting, Loyal, Students) program at elementary level and ambassador program at high school level to train students how to be an upstander and respond and support appropriately, when bullying occurs. Train staff about modeling appropriate behaviors and supporting a positive learning environment

Students will understand what bullying is and what it isn't. Students will recognize how their behaviors can affect others. Students will be equipped to respond and report bullying situations as a victim or witness. Teachers will help model appropriate responses and discussions about positive classroom environments.

This plan allows students to give input on bullying in the building by using a bullying survey. The Pirate PALS will also help in identifying the needs of students in standing up and reporting bullying behavior. This includes the implementation of a claimed bullying incident survey that can be investigated by administration.

Red Ribbon week is being celebrated, October 24-28. The 2022 Red Ribbon theme is 'Celebrate Life. Live Drug Free.' Mrs. Margaret Yancey and Mrs. Olivia Bennett-Bear will be presenting a Live Drug Free assembly for grades k-6. Mrs. Yancey will also be presenting in the classroom during the week.

Students have had lessons this year about how to be a good listener and to not interrupt others or blurt out in the classroom. Students were introduced to the career app that takes them through different types of jobs. It allows them to understand what types of skills and interests would be beneficial in certain careers.

Technology/Federal Funds
Mike Mason

TECHNOLOGY

All classrooms at the elementary (k-6) have a cart in each room and have assigned those to students to use each day to help reduce the spread of germs.

All elementary students were given a chromebook to take home to use.

High school has assigned a Chromebook to each student in grades 7-12 that they carry with them.

Future Plans

We will continue to replace teacher workstations, Chromebooks and other technology as needed.

The district has been replacing projectors with interactive display boards in the classrooms.

The school will continue to use OpenDns web filter which is a cloud based Cisco filtering system for the network while on campus. The district will also use GoGuardian which will filter the Chromebooks that are off campus.

In an effort to keep the community informed of school activities, the district will use:

- The district will use the school's website (pirates.k12.ar.us) which is hosted by Brooks Jeffery Marketing in Mountain Home to send out mass text alerts and emails. Those who would like to sign up for these alerts can click on the sign up logo in the top right corner and sign up for text or email alerts.
- The digital sign will also be used to keep the community up to date on events
- Both campuses will also continue to use Facebook

FEDERAL/STATE FUNDING

Federal and State funding is up about \$15,000 from last year largely in part because of the ESA funding we received from those school lunch forms that families turn in each year when school starts.

It is crucial for small schools like us to have those free and reduced forms turned in each year because there is a big difference between 70% of the population being free and reduced meals and us falling below the 70% threshold. We hit 72% this year and 71% last year. Funding drastically decreases when we fall below the 70%.

State Funding

ESA (Enhanced Student Achievement Funding) was \$295,514

PD was \$13,994

Title VI was \$25,629 and will be used to update teacher and student computers for the district. Chromebooks must be replaced every 5 years because they will stop receiving updates and therefore will not work with a lot of our online programs but we will not have to replace those until the 25-26 school year unless we have a lot damaged or an influx of new students.

Federal Funding:

Title I was \$157,535

Title II was \$19,728 which will be transferred into our Title I.

Title IV funding was \$10,000 and will be transferred into our Title I.

Total of \$522,400 from these federal and state funds to be used for salaries, technology and supplemental programs for the district.

School Resource Officer
Criminal Justice Program
Safety Report
2022/23

As the School Resource Officer I am on duty at the school for all school activities on campus. I am also a Captain of the Calico Rock Fire Department and High School Criminal Justice Program Instructure.

I have completed all of the School Resource Officer certifications needed to be in compliance with state law.

I am working to become a certified instructor in the American Heart Association CPR/AED/First Aid/Basic Life Support.

Senior students receive CPR training prior to graduation. Administrators and Coaches maintain current CPR/AED/First Aid certifications and the training is available for all school district Employees.

Pineville Fire Department Chief Erick Hicks inspected and serviced all school district AED's to ensure they are in good working order.

I conduct Fire drills, Tornado drills, Active Shooter/Killer drills, Lockdown drills and Earthquake Drills .

Numerous times throughout the school year we will bring Calico Rock Fire Departments equipment and firetrucks to each of the campuses to educate the students in fire safety.

I also manage the student Fire Marshal Program for the High School and Elementary School.

We have also reviewed and updated the Calico Rock School District Crisis Plan as well as implemented "Go Bags" in every classroom and cafeteria on all campuses. These "Go Bags" include the crisis plan manual, portable first aid kit and I am working to get a portable bleed control kit for each bag. They shall also include an updated classroom roster for each class and will be taken with the teacher in the event of an emergency or any safety drill that is being conducted.

We are constantly working with outside agencies for crisis response for all emergencies and safety education: - Izard County Sheriff's Dept - Calico Rock Fire Dept - Pineville Fire Department - Arkansas State Police - Arkansas Game and Fish - Calico Rock Medical Center - Arkansas Forestry Commission - Arkansas Dept of Health - Izard County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Deputy Jaden Whitfield IC-25

Report to the Public
Bailey Whiteaker, Elementary School Principal
October 18, 2022

The school year is off to an excellent start. The faculty and staff of Calico Rock Elementary, with the support of parents and community, believe that all students can and will learn. We truly believe in these kids. Currently we have 202 students enrolled.

First, I would like to thank all of our patrons, parents, guardians and teachers. Without each one of you our school would not be as successful as it is. Our students at Calico Rock Elementary receive instruction in the core academic subjects of literacy, math, science, and social studies. They also receive instruction in physical education, health, art, music, enrichment, research and media skills, as well as social emotional, conflict resolution, character education and anti-bullying. Students come to school to learn, but I can assure you that while they are here, they are also loved and cared for.

The Arkansas Standards, which we follow at CRES, are designed to prepare students to succeed in education. The standards are evidence and research-based. We also utilize Next Generation Science Standards to promote a three-dimensional approach to classroom instruction that is student-centered and progresses coherently from grades K-12. With students, parents and teachers all working together for shared goals, we can help ensure students make progress each year to build a strong future for themselves.

The school board graciously allowed us to continue the purchase of our curriculums in Reading and Math. The Reading curriculum purchased is Benchmark Education in grades K-5 and MyPerspectives in 6th Grade. The Mathematics curriculum purchased for grades K-6 is EnVision Math. Our RTI program, i-Ready, was renewed. iReady Math and Literacy are used to assess and monitor student growth and as an RTI resource to ensure that all students are learning to their fullest potential. The program also helps pinpoint lost learning and allows opportunity for an individualized plan of growth for each student. iReady is used as our state assessment for K-2.

Beginning this year, we are incorporating purposeful STEM learning in our classrooms. We had the North Central Educational Cooperative come in and train our teachers on STEM. Thanks to the Calico Rock Parent Group, we now have the STEM lab up and running downstairs.

After school activities include; Peewee basketball and tutoring. We will continue activities such as Elementary Beta, Quiz Bowl, and Spelling Bee.

The elementary houses grade K-6. We have by far the greatest staff anywhere!! This year's staff includes: Kindergarten: Mrs. Kimberly Moorehead and Mrs. Susan Cowgill;

First Grade: Mrs. Shannon Cupples and Mrs. Lisa Roderick; Second Grade: Mrs. Amy Clinkingbeard and Mr. Richard Razinha; Third Grade Ms. Ashley Coley and Mrs. Kary Branscum; Fourth Grade: Mrs. Carson Gibson; Fifth and Sixth Grade Math: Mrs. Jessica Teague; Fifth and Sixth Grade Literacy/Social Studies: Mrs. Leisha McCoy; Fifth and Sixth Science/Social Studies: Mrs. Savannah Harber. We have Mr. Patrick Drennan in PE, Mrs. Evelyn Bishop in the computer lab, Mrs. Leisha McCoy & Mrs. Patty Boyd in the Library, Mrs. Holly Gilbee in Music, Mr. Jonathan Baker in Art, Mrs. Alexa Williams in Special Education, and Mrs. LaDonna Franks as counselor. We also have several full time Paraprofessionals: Aurora Cobb, Debbie Geib, Brianna Ritter, Rose Stanley, Loretta Branscum, Kim Sanders, Gena Broadus, Angel Key, and Haley Story. We have Mrs. Julie Hargett as our Elementary secretary, Jaden Whitfield as our SRO, and Amanda White and Brandy Lester as custodial staff.

The school continues to support the Bridges program. We currently have 65 students who receive food bags each week.

The Calico Rock School District incorporated the preschool in the 2019-20 school year and they continue to thrive. The CRSD Little Pirates Preschool currently has 20 students enrolled. There are three full time employees. Kayla Hutchins is the lead teacher, Mattie Gobin and Alicia Sanders are the paraprofessionals. The program is ABC sponsored.

The Calico Rock District Parent Center is facilitated by LaDonna Franks. She is here to report about the committee and what it represents. Kish Pool is our Dyslexia specialist as well as our GT teacher and she is here to give her report. Connie Moser is our LEA and Special Education Coordinator. LaDonna Franks is also our elementary school counselor and will give that report.

The CRSD worked extremely hard to meet the state and federal health guidelines during the COVID pandemic. Mrs. LaDonna Franks is still our POC. With that being said, we are thankful that this year is off to a more normal start than we have had in the last few years.

The Calico Rock Elementary School would like to personally thank our school board, superintendent, staff, parents, community and the city employees that have continued the outpouring of support throughout our school year. We are also thankful for each student that walks through these doors! We are incredibly blessed!

Annual Public Meeting
October 18th, 2022
High School Principal Report

We have had a good start to the school year. We feel like we are getting back to normal after the last 2 years. Even though we don't want to have to go through that again, we learned valuable lessons and have found new ways to teach that we may not have otherwise.

Our enrollment is currently 185, which is up from last year.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----|------------------------|----|
| 7 th grade | 38 | 10 th grade | 29 |
| 8 th grade | 21 | 11 th grade | 31 |
| 9 th grade | 41 | 12 th grade | 25 |

We have 20 faculty at this time, 5 paraprofessionals, a special ed coordinator and a counselor. This means our students get a great deal of individual attention. One of our paraprofessionals is also our distance learning facilitator. He may have several classes going on virtually in his classroom at the same time.

We have a tutoring program at our school that is offered after school. Students who need extra help can stay and get individualized help with their studies. We are an ACT Testing facility. We feel like having that test on our campus helps our students feel comfortable in a familiar environment, which in turn will make them feel more comfortable taking the test.

We have two new faculty at the high school and one that moved to us from the elementary. Mr. Joe Lacore is our new English Teacher . He is assisting Mrs. Brannon with the Junior Beta and also is our new Bowling Coach. He also is the sponsor for the English Honor Society. Mrs. Bridget Linker is our new Business Teacher. She is the sponsor for FBLA. Mrs. Cooper has taken over the yearbook.

We also have Mrs. Amy Cowgill in a new position. She was at the elementary last year teaching math. She has moved to the high school this year to teach 7th and 8th grade math and Algebra I. She is the 8th grade sponsor, and one of the sponsors for the math and science club.

I believe it is very important for students to be involved in some kind of activity at school. We offer a variety of clubs and sports, so there is something for everyone. Many of our clubs participate in competitions on the District and State and even National level. Even since this year has started, our FFA has been extremely busy with shows and are headed to the state fair. The last couple of years we have added new sports to our program. We have had great success in the past year with our Softball team making it to the ELITE 8 of the state and our Boys Basketball team made it to the FINAL 4 of the state. Both of these are great accomplishments.

We offer a number of college classes through our distance learning lab and through local colleges. Students are able to earn college and high college credit concurrently. This allows students to get college credit for free or at a greatly discounted rate. We have many students taking advantage of this.

We offer our Career and Technical bound students many opportunities also. Each area of our CTE programs offer certificates that can be earned to help get jobs while they are going through their trade school or while attending college, or at a beginner's level in the workforce. Our welding program continues to grow. We have had more students go on to welding schools and have already graduated and joined the workforce since they graduated in May.

We are excited to see our Band and choir increasing in numbers and performing at games and other events. They go to competitions throughout the year and performed very well last year. We now have 2 Calico Rock Alumni playing in the Arkansas State University Marching Band. We also have current students who plan to attend college and be in the bands at the next level.

We have high academic standards here at Calico. I believe Mrs. Stephanie has a report that will talk about our testing scores. Although we have good scores in our district, I believe the kids that are leaving our school upon graduation is a testament to the kind of school we have. We have alumni in physical therapy programs, surveying programs, nursing, biology, mechanics, welding, accounting, business, and the list goes on. One student even told me that High School was harder than college? Of course he is a freshman and it will get harder. I think it is a good indication as to how hard our staff work to prepare the students for life after high school. We know that not all students learn at the same pace or in the same way. We meet them where they are and it shows.

We do have some students who do their work virtually. 7th and 8th grade virtual students attend classes through the North Central Educational Cooperative Tri Regions Virtual School. 9th- 12th grade virtual students attend Virtual AR classes.

One last thing, we have a very active student council group this year. They have worked on an anti bullying campaign this year. They say “It costs nothing to be KIND”. So proud of them for being great student leaders.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for sending up the best kids we could hope for.