Information on a few Topics of Concern for Liberty Parents

March 28, 2023

I have had a few parents ask about a couple of items, so here is some information that hopefully you will find helpful.

This link will take you to the *Mandated Units of Study* that all Illinois K-12 grade public schools are required to teach. This is checked by the Regional Office of Education every 4-5 years in a full compliance visit, while a mini compliance is conducted annually. Liberty School will have a full compliance visit in the 2023-24 school year. Please note that there are no places in this document where we are required to teach Critical Race Theory or the National Sex Education Standards, and we do not intend to. As for what we teach for Personal Health, Safety, and Sexual Health Education Instruction, please click on the this link. Both documents linked above are located on our website.

As of right now, at the State level, there are approximately 2500 bills filed in the Senate and 4000 bills filed in the House. Not one of them is mandating that the National Sex Education Standards be taught. Also, there are no bills concerning the Critical Race Theory.

I am on the Board of Directors for the state superintendent organization that continuously monitors legislation. So, I receive first-hand information regarding legislative action. It is important to note that of the thousands of bills that are filed, many of them do not pass and become law. Also, when something becomes law, it takes the Illinois State Board of Education a time period (sometimes 6 months to a year) to set up the guidelines that schools must follow to comply with the law.

We have been asked about our finances. The District budget is required to be on the school District's website. However, for your convenience, <u>click here to see our fund balances</u>, regularly updated on our website. Also, <u>click here to see a financial summary of spending</u> for this 2022-23 school year. Please know we are making a conscious effort to pay our people and make sure their wages/salaries are competitive for this region of the state. We are doing this because they deserve it and to have quality people, you must pay them fair market value.

If you have any further questions about these or other topics, please call me at 217-645-3433. I am always happy to provide information. We need a community that is well informed and aware of what is happening in the District.

Dr. Kelle S. Bunch Superintendent Liberty CUSD 2