OSB Commission Report

October 14, 2019

Oklahoma School for the Blind began the 2019-2020 school year on August 12, 2019. Teachers and staff reported back for professional development on August 5 and students enrolled on Sunday, August 11. As of October 1, 2019, 83 students were enrolled at OSB. Applications are being review and numbers are projected to climb.

August 28, 2019, DRS/OSB Transition meeting was held at OSB. Agency and school personnel collaborated on current needs of services and discussed future needs.

The first SDE/OSB co-sponsored Visual Impairment Teacher Institute ended June 2019. The second VI Teacher Institute is underway under the coordination of Karen Reed, OSB Compliance Officer. Fifteen participants are enrolled. The subjects covered are: Braille, Low Vision, Intro to Visual Impairment, Assistive Technology/Teaching Methodology, Orientation & Mobility, and Math Adaptations. Next semester, monthly *Zoom* meeting will be incorporated for instruction in Braille Methodology as well as instruction on campus. Instructors will also be recording webinars to have available for participants to utilize as a resource for specific areas of interest and need. Surveys were completed by last year’s participants and changes have been implemented to improve the institute.

September 16-18, 2019, 14 OSB Juniors and Seniors participated in a STEM Camp by Tech Now. The camp was held in the afternoon/evening. Renee Samson and Brandy Hurley along with other helpers assisted in the camp. The students designed and assembled their customized racers, designed personal t-shirts and buttons, and finished the camp by racing their cars. Students enjoyed the activities and learned STEM objectives in the process.

September 25, OSB students attended Western Heritage Days at Silver Spur Ranch, hosted by Roy and Roseanna Webb, Sharon Breeding and the Oklahoma Quarter Horse Association. The day was filled with horseback riding, stagecoach rides, rock climbing, mechanical bull riding, fishing, and roping demonstrations. Lunch and snacks were provided as well. Connors State College Rodeo Club and Haskell FFA members provided one-to-one mentors (buddies) for the students. At the end of the day, prizes were awarded to students.

OSB STEAM Summer Camp was held June 3-14, 2019. Sixty-five students attended the two week camp and 59 of those students were residential. OSB served 21 students that were from public schools around the state and four of those students are now OSB students.

The camp offered Art, Assistive Technology, Science, Woodcraft, Independent Living Skills, and Adaptive PE. All students were in a scheduled rotation to attend each of these classes daily except on field trip days.

During the camp, the students attended two field trips. The first was to Tulsa Discovery Museum where they participated in hands-on projects and activities. Next was to the McKeon Center for Creativity where they were having a “touch the art” exhibit. It included a sculptor to guide students through a clay art project.

Many guest speakers and presenters were also a part of the camp.

-The OSU extension office presented a hands-on lesson with the elementary students and another lesson with the middle and high school students where they assembled and shot off 2-liter bottle rockets.

-OKC Zoo brought in their ZOObaru program and brought animals for the students to learn about and experience.

-The Tulsa Children’s Museum came and guided the students in making a musical instrument and taught a lesson about sound

-Purple Glaze Ceramics brought in ceramic objects for the students to choose and paint.

-The Mad Science Guy taught two very entertaining lessons to both elementary and middle/high school students.

Some of the evening recreation activities included:

 -Welcome to Summer Camp Dance

 -Craft night

 -Swimming at the Muskogee Swim and Fitness

 -Karaoke Night

 -Water Inflatables

 -Movie Night

 -Swimming at the River Country Water Park

The last day of camp culminated with STEAM activities that the students produced during the camp. They raced their pine car derby racers and shot off straw rockets.

September 28 through October 4, 2019, four OSB students attended Space Camp at Huntsville, Alabama. Cheryl Daniels, Teacher, accompanied the group.

October 2, 2019, members of the state executive team met with OSB’s executive team. Tours of the new playground and gymnasium building project were done as well as current topics/issues discussed.

October 8-12, 2019, Shawna Coplen and Lynn Cragg will be attending the APH/COSB Conference in Louisville, KY.

Superintendent was elected President and has begun the 2019/2020 term for Muskogee Area Education Consortium. MAEC is an organization that brings together Muskogee area superintendents, collegiate leadership, and business professionals to address current education and business/industry issues.

Upcoming activities include:

October 15 – White Cane Day

October 22 – Commissioner Cheng visit

October 23 – Hooray for Teachers Event

October 29 – Fall Festival

October 31- Parent/Teacher conference (12:00 – 4:00)

November 4 –Parent/Teacher conference (4:06-6:06)

November 12-Spaghetti fundraiser

November 13-State E Team visit

November 14-Cane Quest

November 18- Quarterly Transition Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Rita J. Echelle

OSB Superintendent