

Journal Review

North to help at-risk students

Bob Cox, Apr 26, 2016

Beginning next school year, a select segment of North Montgomery High School students will be able to participate in a new program designed to keep them in school and prepare them to be job ready upon graduation. Dr. Colleen Moran presented the Jobs for America's Graduates program to the school board which gained a favorable vote.

North Montgomery officials have been aware of the program for several years and had a desire to add the program for their high school students. However, the corporation never qualified to offer the program due to high graduation rates and school performance. But, when state officials changed the parameters, Principal Michael Cox and the school's guidance counselors did the necessary work to get approved.

"We have known about this program for a few years and have always been impressed with it," Superintendent Dr. Colleen Moran said. "This program gives us a pro-active intervention to help us get

students where they need to be after high school."

The program identifies students who are at-risk of dropping out of high school. The national success of the program points to the success rate of keeping the student in school and giving them the training necessary to enter the workforce or enter into post-secondary education.

Jobs for America's Graduates reports that in three decades of operation, the program has delivered outstanding results by helping nearly three-quarters of a million students stay in school until graduation.

The board also approved a new assessment test for students in grades 1-12. The school corporation will now use Northwest Evaluation Association for formative assessment. Moran explained she had been in contact with other corporations using NWEA and expects it to provide the information that will be useful to students, teachers and administrators for evaluation.

Math textbooks were approved for the 2016-2017 school year. Moran noted North students will use both textbooks and iPads in the classrooms next school year.

The board accepted the resignations of high school teachers Kendra Leckrone and Kathryn Stwalley along with Pleasant Hills Elementary special services instructor Audrey Sieferman.

It was announced the Northridge Middle School mass media class will be competing as a finalist in the 15 Film Festival at Purdue on Sunday. The school's film was chosen from 80 other schools and will be competing against 16 other middle schools.

The North Montgomery FFA was honored for being chosen the top FFA chapter in the State of Indiana and is preparing to compete in the upcoming national competition.