Wow! What a Year!
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The whirlwind of activities from August to June can make it difficult to remember the significant moments in any particular school year, but the 2007-08 year was different. The accomplishments of our students and staff just kept coming . . . and coming . . . and coming!

That these achievements took place during a school year when there were several significant distractions is even more impressive.

Fayetteville residents have (and have always had) high expectations for their schools. Year after year, our students and staff members meet those expectations and frequently exceed them. However, in 2007-08, they set a new standard of excellence!

We hope you enjoy this retrospective of an extraordinary year, and we thank you for your part in making it possible.

Sincerely,

Bobby C. New
Superintendent
The Fayetteville Board of Education meets monthly in the Ray Adams Leadership Center located at 1000 West Stone Street. The board meetings are televised live on channel 14 of Cox Cable. They are also recorded and available for viewing on the district’s website at www.fayar.net

Board members are elected for five year terms. Five of the board members represent a specific zone of the school district, and two are elected at large. The annual school election is held each year on the third Tuesday in September.

The board’s regular meetings are on the fourth Thursday of each month at 5 pm, except for November and December, when the meetings are held on the third Thursday.
Board of Education

Superintendent

Chief Financial Officer

Legal Counsel

Chief Information Officer

Public Information Officer

Associate Superintendent for Administration

Principals

Asst. Superintendent for Student Life Services

Director of Human Resources

Director of Nursing

Director of Student Affairs

Associate Superintendent for Operations

Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability

Director of Physical Plant Services

Director of Transportation

Director of School Food Service

Green indicates members of the Superintendent’s Cabinet.
The Awards Kept Coming . . .

- McNair Middle School was named the 2008 Arkansas Middle School-of-the-Year
- McNair principal Michelle Hayward was named the 2008 Arkansas Middle School Principal-of-the-Year
- Fayetteville High School teacher Tamara Stassen was named the 2008 Arkansas German Teacher-of-the-Year
- Fayetteville High School student Brittany Sexton was named the 2008 Arkansas German Student-of-the-Year
- Fayetteville High School students Andrea Love and Pete Burks won first place in the Words & Music competition in the 2008 Arkansas Debate & Forensics Tournament
- Fayetteville High School student Riley Sokora won first place in Sports & Entertainment Marketing at the 2008 Arkansas DECA Competition
- Fayetteville High School students Kelsey Norbash and Alex Summers won Best of Show in the 2008 Arkansas Scholastic Press Association annual competition.
- Fayetteville High School students John Couch and Nathan Trucks won first Place in the 2008 Arkansas “Stamp Out Smoking” commercial competition
Fayetteville High School was #1 in Arkansas for Advanced Placement Scholars (5th consecutive year)

Fayetteville School District’s Gifted & Talented Program Named Best in Arkansas a record 5th time

McNair Middle School & Woodland Jr. High were named as two of the fourteen Best Practice Schools in Arkansas

The team from Woodland Jr. High won the 2008 Arkansas Jr. High Quiz Bowl Champions. The Ramay Jr. High team took 2nd place!

Fayetteville High School head football coach Daryl Patton was named the 2007 Arkansas 7A Football Coach-of-the-Year

Woodland Jr. High won a TeacherTube national award

“We are what we continually do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.”

--Aristotle
Fayetteville High School teacher Linda Clay was named the 2008 Arkansas Marketing Teacher-of-the-Year.

Fayetteville High School’s Service Learning program was named the 2007 Best Service Learning Program in Arkansas.

McNair Middle School teacher Charity McCartney was named the 2007 Arkansas Middle School Art Educator-of-the-Year.

Ramay Jr. High staff member Jackie McCoskey was named the 2007 Arkansas Paraprofessional-of-the-Year.

Fayetteville High School once again led the state with 17 National Merit semifinalists.

Fayetteville High School student Paul St. Clair was elected the 2007 Boys State Governor.

Fayetteville School District was selected by Texas Instruments as the pilot for a nationwide real world math competition.

“It ain’t braggin’ if you can do it.”
--Dizzy Dean
Arkansas Class 7A
State Champions

3rd Consecutive Year!

Girls Golf
3rd Consecutive Year

Fred Gulley
2008 Gatorade Arkansas Boys Basketball Player-of-the-Year

Adam Stone
2008 Arkansas-Democrat Gazette Scholar Athlete-of-the-Year
Our Fayetteville Olympians

Three former Fayetteville students competed for the USA in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

Margaux Isaksen, who attended Ramay Junior High School, competed in the Modern Pentathlon.

Funmi Jimoh, who attended Ramay Junior High, competed in the Women’s Long Jump.

Wallace Spearmon, Jr., attended Leverett Elementary School, Ramay Junior High and graduated from Fayetteville High School in 2003. He competed in the Men’s 200 meters.

No other school district in Arkansas, the region, or perhaps the nation could claim three 2008 Summer Olympians from their schools. We’re absolutely certain that no school district was more proud of their Olympians than Fayetteville!

Congratulations Margaux, Funmi, and Wallace! We watched you compete with great pride. Thanks for representing Fayetteville and our nation so well!
Particularly in today’s volatile, fast-changing world, a public school education must include more than just the basic academics. Students must develop both leadership skills and a sense of commitment to and involvement in their community to become contributing members of society.

Programs at FHS such as Student Council, 26 Club, Teen Leadership Xperience, and Service Learning provide students with opportunities to develop their leadership skills and make tangible contributions to their community.

The FHS Student Council’s annual Homeless Vigil raised more than $13,000 and hundreds of donations of non-perishable food for our less fortunate students and their families.

The FHS Service Learning program, which was named the Best Service Learning Program in Arkansas in 2008, placed students in a variety of situations where they could develop skills in order to be effective agents of change in the community while exploring their own passions and creating community partnerships.
Environmentally Aware

Environmental studies have always been part of our curriculum. However, the emphasis today is on being environmentally aware and environmentally responsible.

The Green Team program began this year in our schools, and each team was allowed to guide its own course in helping their school to become more environmentally friendly. Students collected tons of paper for recycling, and even stayed on the alert for “vampire” electricity, the student’s term for power being used when no one is in the room.

Being more “green” is making its way into the curriculum, too, as students use math skills to calculate their school’s carbon emissions and problem solving skills to determine ways to reduce them.
Any experienced teacher will tell you: if a child’s basic needs aren’t being met, that child will not be able to learn. Children must feel safe, loved, fed, and healthy before learning can begin.

We zealously protect the learning environment and employ a variety of strategies to make sure it stays as undisturbed as possible.

Watch Dog Dads are a vital program in many of our schools, providing an extra pair of eyes and hands to help during the busy school. They also provide a good male role model for our students who may not have one at home.

Emergency drills are practiced at each of our schools to ensure we are prepared in the event of a storm, fire, or an intruder, and every school has a crisis plan and a crisis team ready for a variety of emergencies.

Our district social worker, our families in transition coordinator, and district staff members work with every identified student in need to try and remove the potential barriers to learning.
Housed in the old Boys & Girls Club, the Fayetteville Fitness Center provides fitness equipment, exercise classes, personal trainers, and nutrition training for staff members and their families, as well as City of Fayetteville employees. Equipment available includes treadmills, stationery bicycles, elliptical trainers, free weights, and weight machines. Classes include yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates, Zumba, and Pig Iron Pump.

“The idea behind the fitness center was to provide a nice place where our staff members can improve their fitness,” said Dr. New, “and that will, hopefully, improve their overall health and happiness. Studies show that the healthiest and happiest people in our society are also the most productive.”

The Fitness Center is managed by Dr. Barry Brown, emeritus professor of physical education from the University of Arkansas. Dr. Jerry Foote, also a UA faculty member, provides nutritional counseling.

“We’re incredibly fortunate to have Dr. Brown and Dr. Foote working with us at the Fitness Center,” added Dr. New. “Our staff members are getting instruction and counseling from some of the most knowledgeable experts in their fields, all at a greatly discounted cost.”

Fitness Center Receives State Award
The Fayetteville Fitness Center received the 2008 Governor’s Leadership on Fitness Award from the Arkansas Governor’s Council on Fitness. Accepting the award on behalf of the center were Dr. Barry Brown, director of the center, and Dr. Lisa Morstad, chief financial officer.
There’s a new look to the Fayetteville Public Schools, one that became public on June 1, 2008. The purple column, which had served as our district logo since 1996, was officially replaced.

The new logo was created by jimbob Creative, a Fayetteville marketing consulting company. Thanks particularly to James Gardner of jimbob for his work in creating the logo!

The colors in the new logo reflect the diversity of thoughts, ideas, hopes, and backgrounds that our children have and our collective responsibility to ensure that they are ready to succeed in the 21st Century.

- Purple represents the past, current, and future students and parents in our schools.
- Yellow represents the schools, the center of our educational philosophy.
- Green represents Fayetteville, Arkansas’ most diverse, creative, and intellectual community.
- Red represents all past, current, and future staff members, all believing we can make our schools great.
- The abstract children represent the promise and opportunity we have to cultivate our nation’s next generation.
- The handprint represents our creative, hands-on approach to educating one child at a time.

The signature line recognizes that there really is an art to teaching and learning.
Technology permeates everything that we do, and each year brings amazing new technologies that transform the learning environment. Here are a few of the projects we undertook this year:

1. Transformed standard instructional classrooms at the junior and senior high schools into “Intelligent Classrooms.” Projectors, document cameras and combo players, response systems and interactive boards are all examples of some of the technology provided in these rooms to enhance instruction, improve student achievement and provide equitable access.

2. Supported teachers to use our school web tool, School Center, with posting instructional podcasts, blogs, video and audio announcements.

3. Established wireless saturation in all instructional areas throughout the district.

4. Converted the district phone systems to digital circuits with Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) for an overall monthly cost savings to the district.

5. Re-launched the district website with a new brand, new information architecture and new style by partnering with NSPRA and JimBob Creative, Inc., in order to improve and enhance the district’s strategic communications efforts for key audiences.

6. Student data warehouse created for building administrator access to critical student assessment.

7. New parent notification system installed to support more timely notification of district events, including high-speed emergency notification options.
Outstanding Volunteers

Asbell
Neal Colston
Brent McKnight
Larry Northrup
Carolyn Northrup
Casey Patterson

Butterfield
Kathy Burgess
Bill Conrow
Kim Dutton
Libby Smith
Jennifer Vaughn

FHS
Susan Baker
Elizabeth Brunner
Donna Ferguson
Carolyn Hale
Wendy Hills
Nancy Keen
Jennie Ourand
Mary Beth Shields
Pam Stanley
Linda Starr
Eileen Thoma

Holt
Kate Arroyos
Angela Cothren
Terri Mehaffey
Naida Mendez
Mike Ward
Celeste Wharry

Loverett
Diana Fologea
Christine & Harold Haller
Mark Osbourne
Sam Vajda
Joe & Beth Woessner

McNair
Leslie Bandy
Caryn Finney
Lisa Freeman
Patti Gingrich
Ellen Greubel
Lisa McCollough
Tamara Roberts
Nika Waitsman

Owl Creek
Terry Annis
Sherry Bernstein
Lorraine Brewer
Jeanette Cordell
Phil Cotterman
Kaedi Cowan
Susan Golbski
Mary Hale
Denise Waltrip
Cindy Windham

Ramay
Dyana Albert
Lisa Clancy
Sarah Cox

Anette Goll
Laura Hokett
Tia King
Jenny Lapham
Lanita McKinney
Lori Osborne
Donna Schoby
Holly Shipley

Root
Amy Commer
Myra Crockett
Sharon Crosson
Michelle Miller
JoAnn Moore
Shannon Peters
Melissa Varady

Vandergriff
Lori Dobson
Laura Fox
Shari Langham
Anita Parisi
Kenny Roberson
Heather Walker
Teresa Weeks

Washington
Joann Dearing
Jim Halsell
Kim Kelly
Terra Stephenson
Jenni Swain

Woodland
Susan Baker
Linda Herberger
Nancy Langbein
Debbie Power
Julia Thorn
Debbie Tuttle

2008 Dorothy Lindquist Volunteer-of-the-Year Phil Cotterman and school board president Steve Percival.
In this era of accountability, student performance on standardized tests is the primary standard by which the student, her teacher, the school, and the school district are judged. During the 2007-08 school year, we did see several trends.

Elementary school students in Fayetteville continue to make gains in academic achievement as measured by the number of students scoring proficient or advanced on the Arkansas benchmark exams in both mathematics and literacy. Third graders who received scores of proficient or advanced increased from 77% to 81% in mathematics and 64% to 72% in literacy. Mathematics scores for fourth grade students increased 3% from the 2007 scores, while literacy increased 5%. Fifth graders had some of the largest gains in grades 3 through 5, with a 7% increase in mathematics and 13% increase in literacy.

Middle and junior high school students had moderate increases in all tested grades, 6th through 8th, in both mathematics and literacy. Sixth graders in 2008 had an increase of 2% in both math and literacy from scores of sixth graders in 2007. Seventh graders recorded a 4% increase in math and a 2% increase in literacy. The performance of 8th graders in 2008 increased from 66% to 74% in

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>% Below Basic</th>
<th>% Basic</th>
<th>% Proficient</th>
<th>% Advanced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd Grade Math</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Grade Lit</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Grade Math</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Grade Lit</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Grade Math</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Grade Lit</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Grade Math</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Grade Lit</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>31</td>
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<td>7th Grade Math</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>53</td>
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<td>7th Grade Lit</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Grade Math</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Grade Lit</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
mathematics and 78% to 83% in literacy over the 2007 eighth grade scores.

The gains made by secondary students in 2008 on both the end-of-course geometry exam and the 11th-grade literacy benchmark were 4% over the 2007 scores. The student scores for the end-of-course algebra assessment remained at nearly the same level as the prior year’s scores, 82%.

Science assessments were administered for the first time in 2008 in grades 5 and 7 as well as biology. The results for Fayetteville students were as follows: 53% for 5th grade, 55% for 7th grade, and 47% for biology.

Student Assessment

Fayetteville Students’ Scores on the End-of-Course Exams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algebra 1</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geometry</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th Grade Lit</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did you know . . .

. . . Fayetteville students’ average score on the ACT exam in 2007-08 was 23.4. The state average was 20.6.

Standardized tests will always be part of the assessment process, but new trends like online portfolios are also becoming important tools to gauge not just student proficiency but student mastery of a subject.
Fayetteville has long been recognized for its academic and athletic prowess, but our reputation for excellence in the fine arts is equally as well known and deserved.

Our instrumental music program begins in the seventh grade, builds through junior high school, and culminates at Fayetteville High School with the Marching Bulldog Band and the FHS Concert Band. Sixteen FHS students were named to the 2008 Arkansas All-State Band, and both the Marching Bulldog Band and the FHS Concert Band received top marks in their respective competitions in 2007-08. The Marching Bulldog Band will also make their second appearance in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade on Thanksgiving Day 2008.

The choral music program also begins in middle school. Additional, more challenging activities await students in junior high, and the program culminates with the Women’s Select, Men’s Select, A Cappella, and Encore choirs at FHS. Nine students were selected to the 2008 All-State Choir, and all of the competitive choirs received top marks in the choral competitions. The choirs were also invited to sing the National Anthem at a Kansas City Royals game.

The list productions presented by our theater program is an impressive list of many of the finest shows in the history of Broadway. The 2007-08 FHS productions included “God’s Favorite,” “Edward and the Pirates,” “The Elephant Man,” “The Actor’s Nightmare,” and “Bang, Bang You’re Dead.” The FHS drama also produced their traditional series of one act plays.
District Budget

The Fayetteville School District is the fourth largest employer in Fayetteville, and our payroll puts more than $4,400,000 into the local economy each month. Eighty-four percent of our budget is spent on salaries and fringe benefits for our more than 1,300 employees.

During the 2007-08 school year, we invested $10.7 million in facility improvements.

One of the most significant actions of the year was the school board’s approval of salary increases for all personnel. All staff members received at least a 4% raise, and a greater percentage raise was given to those staff members who have obtained additional education. The raises also moved Fayetteville into first place in average teacher salary in Arkansas.

The district funded the improvement and salary increases through internal efficiencies and no increase in property taxes. In fact, the millage rate for 2008 of 43.8 mills is actually less than the millage rate of 1994, which was 44 mills.

The district’s finances are audited annually by an independent CPA firm.

Revenues:

- Uncommitted Carryforwards $6,468,532
- Restricted Carryforwards $2,709,461
- State Funds $25,010,264
- Local Funds $45,775,000
- Interest on checking account $1,000,000
- Fed Funds/Grants/Restricted $7,083,658
- Vocational Education $156,061
- Pepsi Contract $207,418
- Athletic Gate Receipts $118,000
- E-rate $120,000
- Miscellaneous $200,000
- Food Service sales $1,245,000
- Reserve $5,281,200

Total Revenues & Reserve: $ 95,374,594

Expenditures:

- Salaries $52,204,140
- Fringe Benefits $12,950,751
- Debt Service Payments $5,586,003
- Maintenance & Operations:
  - Maintenance $1,256,505
  - Utilities $1,720,174
  - Transportation $746,873
  - Food Service $843,557
  - Technology $500,864
- Curriculum & Instruction $1,831,685
- School Improv/Prog. Devlp. $251,992
- Athletics/Physical Education $207,805
- Grant Expenditures (not personnel) $1,820,000
- Miscellaneous $406,520
- Tuition $159,200
- Reserve $5,281,200
- Unrestricted Carryforward $6,486,532
- Restricted Carryfwd $2,709,461

Total Expenditures & Reserve: $ 95,374,594
It’s hardly ever dull in our schools! There are so many exciting activities and goings-on, and you never know what the next day will bring. However, we do know the coming year will require several significant decisions from our school district.

The debate over the future of Fayetteville High School has become clearer, but obstacles remain, particularly the economic crisis facing our nation. The school board has decided that the future of Fayetteville High School will be on one campus, which will be changed to a 9-12 grade configuration, instead of the current 10-12 grade configuration. The discussion now turns to how a 21st century high school that incorporates all of today’s technology, flexibility, and creativity can be financed and built in Fayetteville. Community involvement will be essential to the success of this project.

We will continue our search for a replacement for Dr. Bobby New, who will retire in June of 2009 after thirteen years as superintendent. A national search is underway, and Dr. New’s successor will be announced in 2009.

However, our most important task remains: continuing to improve student learning and creating a climate where students can not just succeed but can excel. That’s the fine art of education!
Plenty of Reasons to Smile!