

Fling Helps District Pay for Notification System

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RRSTAR.COM

Posted Apr 29, 2008 @ 10:28 PM

ROSCOE — The Kinnikinnick School District will join a number of others in adding the SchoolMessenger service to contact parents, staff and residents in an emergency.

Superintendent Bob Lauber said school administrators will be able to send parents alerts via cell phones, e-mail, text messaging and land lines when danger or serious issues arise or when a snow day has been issued.

The purchase was made possible by the Flamingo Fling committee, which holds a fundraiser every February.

Lauber said the initial cost is about \$6,500, with \$5,000 in annual fees to provide the service. He hopes to have it up and running by the start of next school year.

The district hopes Flamingo Fling will be able to take on the annual costs of the program, which has been well-received by parents. The School District has had a difficult time fitting the program into its budget.

"We really appreciate their efforts," said Lauber.

President Lori Hanke said 15 people really make the Flamingo Fling go. She said strong support from the community and its businesses have made the committee's efforts successful. The semiformal Hollywood Glitz drew about 130 people Feb. 21, she said. Next year's event will be Feb. 9.

"We refer to it as the adult prom," she said. "We've had excellent support from the community."

The Hononegah School District has used the SchoolMessenger service several times — when a threatening note was found in the school, for snow days and when severe weather threatened, for example.

Committee member and parent Chris Lawver said the emergency notification system is an excellent safety measure. She is glad the group was able to help bring something so vital to Kinnikinnick schools.

"It's been a great tool for other districts and is great for our district, too," said Lawver. "We feel it's important to give back to the schools."