



Superintendent's Report

To: Board Members

From: Leah M. Christman

Date: February 10, 2014

- The Pennsylvania Department of Education has adjusted the PSSA testing window due to the amount of schools days lost for weather this winter across Pennsylvania. PDE will extend the:
 - PSSA Math/Reading window to now occur March 24 - April 4, 2014. The make-up window will be April 7 - 11, 2014.
 - The PSSA Writing window will be extended to April 11. Make-ups for the PSSA Writing is April 14 - 25, 2014.
 - The PSSA Science and the Keystone Exams windows will not change. The PSSA Science window is April 28 - May 9, including make-ups; the Keystone Exams window is May 12 – 23, 2014.
- Due to the changes in PSSA testing, we will need to review our calendars and make changes to Parent-Teacher conferences, which will now conflict with the testing windows. Central Office administrators will work with building principals and teachers to determine the best way to handle these conflicts. We will communicate with everyone as soon as possible.
- An announcement of the student digital film festival- a partnership between the school district, the Southern Lehigh Chamber of Commerce and the Southern Lehigh Education Foundation is soon to be launched. The festival, called ***My Community...My Business*** will be open to student teams in all grades. Local chamber business members and community members will sponsor the event with donations benefitting SLEF. Students will work in teams to develop a short digital film that showcases their 21st century skills- the 4 C's (communication, creativity, collaboration and critical thinking) while using technology for their research and creations. The project has ties to

many of our curriculum areas including all core areas and 21st century themes. Students will randomly be assigned a genre (comedy, sci-fi, drama, mystery, etc.) and a local business partner. Film-makers will use their creative writing skills to develop their 'story' which must incorporate the local business, and object that represents the business, and the words "My community...My business" in some creative manner. They will write, direct, produce, collaborate, film, act, and create. Recognition and small prizes will be awarded in many categories. We are excited for this opportunity to partner with our local businesses and to encourage and support our students as they learn more about our local community. The film festival will be a community event later this spring, and we hope many will attend to celebrate our students' accomplishments.