



Superintendent's Report

To: Board Members

From: Leah M. Christman

Date: April 28, 2014

- On Tuesday, April 15, Mr. Melber, Mrs. Buchman, and I met with Representative Simmons to discuss some of the challenges we face at SLSD and in education. Topics included philosophical direction for education for the future, State funding, charter school oversight and funding, special education including funding, frustrations with the rollout of initiatives and mandates coming from Harrisburg and unanticipated consequences.
- On Thursday, April 24 we held a meeting for the steering committee for the Continuous Energy Improvement Program through the Strategic Energy Group and PPL. The program focuses on education and changing human behaviors to save energy. In addition to administrators, the committee includes 2 students and our Physics/Economic teacher, Mr. Collins. Plans to create a vision, goals and plans for our rollout in August will be the committee's focus through June.
- On Thursday, April 24 we hosted an event with Edinboro University's aspiring principal and superintendent programs. About 25 graduate students (including Mr. Davidson from the MS) presented findings of research studies they had completed in their schools. It was impressive to see how utilizing data to inform decisions has become more integrated into our schools. Mr. Davidson studied the results of our implementation of Read 180 for struggling readers grades 6-8. While the results showed improvement from some students, others continue to struggle with their reading. His study has prompted additional questions for our schools to continue to study while we seek successful methods and programs.
- Clarity® surveys are underway district-wide between to teachers, students, and parents to measure our technology throughout the district. I want to encourage participation as this data will help in strategic planning.
- Before they return to Wuhan, China, Mr. He and Mr. Peng are planning to host a Chinese summer camp for our 2nd and 3rd graders for the week of July 14, along with evening classes in Mandarin for adult community members that same week. Information will be forthcoming as their specific plans develop.