



Superintendent's Report

To: Board Members
From: Leah M. Christman
Date: May 9, 2016

- This past week was Teacher Appreciation Week. As I indicated to our entire staff- we are all “teachers”! Our parents and students provided an amazing response of appreciation, sending in almost 300 “Thank you” notes to our teachers, staff members, and administrators. Many messages were heartfelt and many recipients noted that the message “made my day!” Thank you to all who sent the messages and to the many that make the district such a great place to work and learn.
- We will be participating in a pilot through the Clarity Bright Byte program that addresses digital privacy, safety, and security planning with regard to technology. This will provide our team an opportunity to audit our current practice and make plans for improvement. We are one of two Pennsylvania school districts piloting this new module on the Clarity platform.
- All schools are currently engaged in our annual Clarity technology and learning survey for educators, students, and parents. To date, 344 parents, 216 educators, and over 2100 students from 3rd to 12th grade have completed the survey. This assessment provides valuable data that measures our integration of technology and 21st century learning following the case model. This includes classroom activities- use of the 4 C's; digital citizenship, assessment and assistive technology; Access at school and home; foundational, online and multimedia skills for teachers and students; and our environment including policies, tech support, professional development and our beliefs. We have been using this platform since 2012, and have used the data to continually improve our practice. We look forward to our latest data collection and will begin the analysis within the next few weeks.
- I attended the first PIAA District XI superintendents meeting last week. District XI and PIAA leaders shared a great deal of information regarding finances, local partnerships, potential litigation, and new requirements for coaching education.
- Career opportunities continue to change and the preparation for those careers is also changing. There is growing interest and support in providing a variety of pathways for viable careers and post secondary education for our students. Our goal is to make sure we bring these programs to Southern Lehigh in order to meet the needs of all students. There is a new emphasis in technical

preparation and more Lehigh Valley companies interested in filling anticipated job openings for technical careers. I currently serve as the co-chair for Lehigh County Career Pathways steering committee. We are in the process of revamping and revitalizing the career pathways program and sponsored a Leaders Summit last week. The consortium has expanded to include Northampton County and will now be called *Lehigh Valley Career Pathways*. Educators and business leaders who attended the Summit worked together to map out strategies to bring new life to the program so that all students may benefit from career and college ready planning. One of our first tasks is to complete a district self assessment one career pathway activities including five critical factors:

- An integrated K-12 guiding career process;
 - a rigorous curriculum designed for each career pathway;
 - planned professional development to address career pathways;
 - effective partnerships with business, industry, and education; and
 - academic and administrative leadership in the implementation of career pathways.
- I also serve as a board member on the Lehigh County Business Education Partnership. In that capacity, I attended two meetings last week – one involving state and federal officials along with business and education leaders discussing how to expand 21st century apprenticeship programs for our students. The other Board Meeting highlighted upcoming activities for our teachers and students. These include:
 - A summer **Educator Externship** /job shadowing opportunity for a teacher and counselor team in a few local businesses.
 - A new technical bachelor's degree through Bloomsburg/LCCC and business support- "My Degree- Debt Free" available to our students;
 - This Wednesday, May 11, the elementary transition advisory committee of teachers will meet to provide any additional input and suggestions for a smooth transition to the new Hopewell this summer. We have planned a tour of the new building around 3:15 PM for committee members. Any board member, who is interested in joining us for the tour, please let me know and we will make those arrangements.
 - As we head into the final months of school, many of our traditional spring activities including concerts, festivals, elementary school play dates, and of course the high school prom will be occurring. Please check the school website and calendar for schedules of these activities over the next few weeks.