



Superintendent's Report

To: Board Members

From: Leah M. Christman

Date: February 11, 2013

- The Curriculum Department will be prepared to answer questions on the Data Assessment Report and share actions planned to work toward improving scores in the year ahead. All Board Members are asked to read the Assessment Report and e-mail any questions to Mr. Jordan, Mrs. Takacs, or Mrs. Buchman by Thursday, February 21. The presentation at the next Board meeting will not include a recap of the statistical data. The Assessment Report is available online by visiting Academics> Curriculum> (on left) Data Assessment Report or clicking below: <http://www.slsd.org/academics.cfm?subpage=1010174>
- The Keystone exam administration for our students who had completed courses prior to this year went well. Discussions have begun on remediation plans for students who do not score proficient on the exams in the future. Our understanding from PDE is that the keystones have been approved by the US Dept. of Education as a replacement for the 11th grade PSSA. The State still plans to submit a waiver for NCLB with adjusted AMO's for this year's keystones. PDE hopes to have the waiver approved by late spring.
- Our DeSales University communications intern is working primarily with the Athletic Department on website communications. Additionally, we are trying to acknowledge all students and staff for accomplishments on the *Achievement Spotlight* page on the website. This site will continue to be updated as information comes in. Visit <http://www.slsd.org/districtandboard.cfm?subpage=1655360> for the latest accomplishments.
- We have added a suggestion box to the website. Most suggestions that have come in so far <http://www.slsd.org/news.cfm?story=113054&school=0>
- Mr. Jordan and the High School Administrators are planning Parent sessions to discuss the opt-in for students to take laptops home for continued learning. Information about Project BLUE and the 1:1 implementation is available on the website at <http://www.slsd.org/HighSchool.cfm?subpage=1647632> . Details about the opt-in option will be available after the first parent meeting- planned for later in February.
- Mrs. Hanan Gawdet, our Egyptian guest teacher through TCLP was awarded a grant of close to \$700.00 from TCLP for our MS & HS students to visit a

museum in NYC to learn about ancient cultures including that of Egypt. She is still in the planning stages for the trip which she hopes will occur later this spring.

- Mr. Glenn Cahilly of New Tripoli, donated approximately 800 games to the district. The Middle School has shared the game with Chinese and Social Studies teachers and plans to collect donations for games at the upcoming Academic Achievement night to raise money for experiences with our Chinese sister schools. From Mr. Cahilly: "A number of people have told me about your school district's "very impressive" Chinese language program and I thought you might be interested in an educational game my company developed in collaboration with the Asian Studies Department at the University of Vermont. The game's title is "*Feilong, the China Game*"; it's question-based with a focus on the history and culture of China and is designed for ages 12 to adult. I'm contacting you because I retired, closed the company (Mamopalire of Vermont, Inc.), and moved to New Tripoli in PA with the company's remaining inventory. If you are interested, I am willing to donate copies of *Feilong* (trans: Flying dragon) to any or all of your schools."
- Mr. Hayes and I visited Representative Simmons and had a thorough conversation about many issues impacting public schools. We shared some recent data and articles with Mr. Simmons concerning Special Ed. funding and Charter School accountability / cyber costs. Representative Simmons has now invited us to share concerns regarding the cumbersome process to secure Access funding with members of the Legislation and Board of Education in Harrisburg this Wednesday afternoon. I have reached out to schools in IU 21, summarized concerns, and we will share on everyone's behalf. Superintendent Michael Roth from Salisbury will also be joining us.
- I attended the Legislative Committee meeting at PASA in Harrisburg on Friday to hear presentations on the Governor's proposed budget. Representatives from the House and Senate Appropriations committees, Ron Tomalis- Secretary of Education, and Charles Zogby- Secretary of the Budget all presented. The main topics revolved around proposed changes for pension reform and details of the budget impacting education. It is very early in the budget process and changes to the final budget are expected.