



## ***Superintendent's Report***

To: Board Members

From: Leah M. Christman

Date: February 9, 2015

- Southern Lehigh Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> grade team with coaches Tara Walter and Michael Pauling, are again participating in the *What's So Cool About Manufacturing* video contest. This year, the team has been partnered with Crayola. The celebration evening is scheduled for February 24 at Steel Stacks in Bethlehem.
- The High School will be hosting visitors on February 19- teachers and administrators from South Middleton School District, Boiling Springs. PA. Our Administrative team will share our journey to 1:1, critical success factors in the process, and then the visitors will observe classes to learn how our teachers are integrating the technology for learning.
- A team of 10 teachers, technicians and administrators are attending the Pete & C Technology conference in Hershey, Feb 8-12, representing all levels. Tara Walter and Anita Benedix are presenting a poster session - [A Blended Approach to Middle School Learning](#) and students from the Middle School will join us for the Student Showcase. Kelly Dougherty will present a workshop on [Flipping an Elementary Classroom? You Can!](#) I will do a presentation called [1:1: How do we know it makes a difference?](#)
- The High School recently submitted an application to be recognized by the Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills as an Exemplary Program. Now in its second year, the [21st Century Learning Exemplar Program](#) highlights best practices in schools and districts across the country that are preparing students for college, career and citizenship by embedding critical 21st century competencies into the learning environment. We'll keep you posted.
- We were invited to join 19 other schools nation-wide to work with a team of researchers on technology related action research projects. Mr. Jordan and I have been working to develop a pilot program that focuses on the results of literacy skill development for a group of our 1<sup>st</sup> graders who are scoring below benchmark as measured by Dibels by using iPads and software applications designed to engage and enhance children's literacy skills. More to come as details are developed...

- We were also invited to participate in a Regional Summit for Future Ready Schools sponsored by the US Department of Education and the Alliance for Excellent Education. Future Ready is a free, bold new effort to maximize digital learning opportunities and help school districts move quickly toward preparing students for college success, a career, and citizenship. The effort provides districts with resources and support to ensure that local technology and digital learning plans align with instructional best practices, are implemented by highly trained teachers, and lead to personalized learning experiences for all students, particularly those from traditionally under-served communities. Our team of 4 will attend the summit in Baltimore in March.
  
- I will be attending the Global Education Symposium in Washington DC Friday, Feb. 20 to serve on a panel and share what we are doing in Southern Lehigh with global education with administrators from throughout the nation. The US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, partnering with IREX, a NGO (non-governmental organization) sponsors the event. The program provides intensive professional development for secondary teachers on global education for all content areas, and ends in a 2-week shadowing experience abroad.
  
- Proposed 2015-16 calendars are presented to the Board for consideration for a vote the next Board meeting. Two calendar versions were created after meeting with Superintendents in Lehigh County and our own admin team. One version places all snow-make up at the end of the school year first, the other uses scheduled days as they occur. There are pros and cons to each version. A observations regarding other Lehigh County schools:
  - All schools propose to begin before Labor Day except Allentown, Parkland and Whitehall.
  - All schools are proposing being closed the Monday after Thanksgiving and March 11 for In-service.
  - Allentown, East Penn, Northern Lehigh, Parkland, Salisbury, and Whitehall all have days identified during the school year for snow make-up. Some add a couple to end and then move to holidays. Some only target in-service days. Most identify Pres. Weekend and Spring break as possible snow make-up.
  - Whitehall, Allentown, East Penn designate MLK day as holiday. Salisbury, Northern Lehigh, Parkland & Northwestern Lehigh – MLK is in-service day.