



Superintendent's Report

To: Board Members
From: Dr. Leah M. Christman
Date: Aug 10, 2015

- The Administrative Team is finalizing plans to kick off the new school year. We have been interviewing for positions, hoping to ensure that we have our new teachers ready to begin the school year with students. Board members are invited to attend the Welcome Back breakfast and assembly on Tuesday, August 25, if available.
- Our Administrative team has also been planning for Induction for new teachers. This begins Monday August 24 and Board Members are invited to lunch that day to meet our new teachers in the JPLIS cafeteria at 12:00 PM. Please let Diana Millman know if you plan to attend.
- The 2015 Edu-Summit was a great success as we hosted about 320 teachers from throughout the region at the high school on Aug. 5-6 for 2 days of learning. Several of our teachers gave presentations and details are posted in the district newsletter, the Laconian, and on our Facebook page. In addition to Southern Lehigh, this year the planning team included administrators from Salisbury, Quakertown, Saucon Valley, Palisades, Catasauqua, CLIU and Bucks IU. The event ran at no cost to any school or participant as a variety of vendors supported it through keynote speakers and donations to cover food expenses. As always, participants were very impressed with our facilities and the conference offerings. Southern Lehigh had 57 educators registered.
- There has been much in the news regarding the 2014-15 PSSA scores and the drop statewide as compared to last year. I received several communications from PDE urging schools to avoid comparisons to last year's scores, as this is a new test with new benchmarks for proficiency. Our preliminary score have been released to the administration and we are seeing less students achieving proficiency. Scores are higher in ELA than Math. We seem to be on par locally. Our Science scores are strong. I will be sending out more communications to our parents and staff to help everyone understand the new test scores. We need to keep in mind that this test is based on the new PA Core standards. We have been working hard to implement new curriculum and that takes time- time to understand the new standards, professional development, and realigning and acquiring new resources. Students will also continue to build on their skills, so we expect to see improvement in a similar fashion

that we have experienced in the past. All administrators, and teachers will be working on data analysis and curriculum alignment as a focus for the upcoming school year. The 2013-14 scores for buildings and district have not yet been released by the Department of Education.

- Construction is underway for the new elementary building. Everything is running smoothly and the foundation is being installed.
- We participated in the Demand Response power shutdown on Aug 5. The shutdown was scheduled during the EduSummit so we did not shut down areas of the high school where our guests were meeting. We are hopeful that the rest of the district will meet our minimum requirement for the rebate.

