



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

To: Board Members

From: Leah M. Christman

Date: November 14, 2012

- The dedication and ribbon-cutting for the Joseph P Liberati Intermediate School has been changed to November 21. All other plans remain the same.
- The week of October 29 brought with it many challenges for our school. Communication was extremely difficult without power, cell phones, and access to sending and receiving messages. Some parents indicated after the storm that they did not receive messages the way they had hoped. I would like to remind everyone that they may create a parent login at the blackboard portal and indicate how they would like to receive messages. We sustained damages to the middle school roof and gymnasium floor, high school roof, Lower Milford shingles, and trim at other buildings. All items are currently being investigated, as is insurance coverage. On Friday, November 2 we open the school with a lower Milford and Liberty Bell still without power. We successfully moved approximately 400 students to either Hopewell or the intermediate school. Our attendance on Friday averaged 83%. I want to publicly thank our entire staff for their dedication and flexibility in getting through hurricane Sandy. It took a lot of work on everyone's part to return the students to school on Friday. Losing four of our five built in inclement weather days poses the potential for not meeting minimum days and hours in session. I will present to the board a summary of where we stand at this point in time, and options moving forward. We do not anticipate that the state will forgive any of the days lost. Our greatest concern is meeting minimum requirements for graduating seniors in order to maintain a graduation date of June 7.
- At the Intermediate Unit's superintendent retreat last week, I received the results of the recent Clarity survey. These results are available through a private web portal. The consultant, Rob Mancabelli shared the combined results of an 11 out of 13 schools in our area who participated. He indicated that our region is well poised to create transformative change through technology. I will be working with

our administrative team over the next several weeks to look at our individual data by school building, and to plan for next steps. As soon as we have had the opportunity to analyze this data we will share a report with the board and community.

- At the superintendence retreat, Amy Morton, Executive Deputy Secretary of Education at PDE indicated that the state has applied to the US Department of Education for adjusted benchmark scores for Keystone exams due to the increased rigor with the alignment to the common core standards and results from the pilot tests. PDE is anticipating a response at any time. Ms. Morton also indicated that the state plans to apply for a waiver to the US Department of Education for the No Child Left Behind legislation.
- One of the goals we set this year was to increase and coordinate our parent workshops. Each building or department has been asked to post their workshops, a description, and information on where and when the workshop will be offered on the website under the parent tab. We are hoping that by creating a one-stop webpage, parents will have a comprehensive picture of all the workshops offered by the district and may attend some in buildings other than their own. There are currently eight workshops listed that should appeal to parents at all levels. We will continue to add additional workshops as they are planned and developed.
- As we get into winter months I would like to remind everyone that the process for determining school delays or closures is posted on the website. We rely how on weather forecasts delivered to us by local meteorologists, the State, townships' and borough's ability to clear roads, our support services staff's ability to clear walkways and parking lots on campus in a timely fashion, and our bus transportation vendor's ability to deliver children safely to and from school. These are not always easy decisions since we rely on many other resources outside of our own personnel. However, we take the information available to us into consideration and will make the best calls we can- always with the safety of our students in the forefront.