

## Acting Superintendent's Report

To: Board Members

From: Leah M. Christman

Date: January 23, 2012

1. Today is Chinese New Year- Year of the Dragon! Eddy Tang, Education Advisor for Overseas Projects for Hebei Provincial Education Department is planning to visit our schools for a couple of days at the end of February/ beginning of March to establish a partnership/ sister school with a high school in China.
2. BCIU invited SLSD to participate in a trip to Washington DC on 1.24.12 (6am-9pm) to visit Middle Eastern Embassies. We hope to partner with BCIU for Arabic in the future. Four teachers (including our Egyptian teacher) and three high schools students will participate. The visit includes the following:
  - a. Begin at the Egyptian Cultural and Educational Bureau. The Bureau runs under the auspices of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Egypt in harmony with the Embassy of Egypt in the United States, and organizes and participates in a variety of cultural events and activities in the States and plays a major role in many educational activities. (Embassy of Egypt is closed for elections)
  - b. Progress to the Embassy of Iraq, where the Iraqi Ambassador to the United States will be speaking. Receive slide presentations, refreshments, and a talk given by a Georgetown University director and well-known Iraqi media individual.
  - c. Next, go to the monument of Khalil Gibran - famous Lebanese poet, philosopher, and artist. Then make a visit to the Islamic Center.
  - d. End with a visit to the Saudi Arabia Embassy, to witness exhibitions, presentations, and talks. The group will also be hosted for an authentic dinner.
3. Present a draft of 2012-13 calendar for review. Will bring for approval at the next meeting.
4. We are meeting with PSU Lehigh Valley's Chancellor, Continuing Education Director, and Director of Academic Affairs on Feb. 16 to discuss enhancing our academic partnerships.
5. Recommendation for the Middle School to participate in Project Success through the Center for Humanistic Change in Lehigh Valley at no cost to the district. This research-based program would provide mentors to at-risk students. Mentors are all professional with masters-level training in counseling, social work or education. Parent permission is required for participation.