



Superintendent's Report

To: Board Members

From: Leah M. Christman

Date: March 26, 2012

- A reminder that SLEF is holding its 6th annual Ladies Night Out at Melt this Wednesday, March 28th from 7-9pm. Tickets are still available.
- Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Takacs, Mr. Jordan and I met with Penn State Lehigh Valley to discuss strengthening our partnership with PSU. We discussed options for dual enrollment, scholars and honor programs, possible future faculty collaboration and other ideas. We will follow up with additional meetings with the high school in the near future.
- LCTI has developed a data warehouse that will allow our HS counselors and Principals, along with others who need data access to our SLSD/LCTI student data. All individuals who should have access to this data will be trained. The data can also be downloaded to our data warehouse so that teachers will have a complete picture of students who attend LCTI and are in their classes here at the high school. This availability will streamline communications for information needed here in the District.
- Mrs. Gunkle and I attended a Legislative meeting at East Penn last Friday morning. Representatives (Superintendents, Board members, Business Managers) from surrounding districts were invited to meet with area legislators to discuss issues of concern for public education. A representative of the PA School Boards Association gave a legislative update. The concerns that received the most attention were the proposed Governor's budget and potential negative impact to transportation reimbursement, the elimination of Accountability Block Grant, the new Block grant proposal, and (Cyber) Charter School funding formula inequities and concern over for-profit use of tax-payer dollars and lack of accountability, and unfunded or underfunded mandates. Unfortunately only one legislator was present for the entire meeting and another came late -out of the 10 invited and 4 who said they were coming.
- There has been some concern in the media over beef products -lean finely textured beef (LFTB) options -served in schools. We received communication last week from the USDA indicating that schools will have the ability to avoid use of these products (through the commodity program) starting next school year. USDA stands behind the quality and safety of LFTB, it is safe and has been utilized in the production of commercial and USDA beef products for the past two decades. The e-mail from the USDA to our Coordinator of Food Services has been provided to Board members.
- So far, kindergarten registrations are lower than usual -125 so far compared to 140 from last year at the same time. We generally end up with about 160 students. We'll continue to monitor our numbers.