



Superintendent's Report

To: Board Members

From: Leah M. Christman

Date: May 21, 2013

- A team of PDE consultants are visiting our schools through tomorrow for Special Education Compliance Monitoring. Mrs. Buchman has spearheaded the process, working with building staff and administrators. Monitors are visiting classes, interviewing teachers, parents and staff and reviewing documentation. A debrief on their preliminary findings will be shared tomorrow with a full report to arrive later this summer.
- I recently met with Jack Pfunder, Pres./CEO of Manufacturers Resources Center, Karen Buck, Project Manager Skill-Up the Student Pipeline, and Cindy Evans, of LV Workforce Investment Board to discuss a grant recently awarded through LCTI with 8 districts named in partnership. Southern Lehigh is part of the project. The goals of the grant- a pilot for PA- are to educate the public about manufacturing careers and to establish a sustainable pipeline of students who choose manufacturing careers. This team will work with our district in the year ahead to inform our parents and students about the great opportunities in manufacturing in the Lehigh Valley. We hope to partner with local manufacturing companies and plan a variety of activities to meet these goals.
- I also met with the team at Berks CO. Intermediate Unit to discuss potential future activities related to international education and the Chinese program. Again, the aim is to work with higher education institutions and regional business regarding the opportunities for our students in this global economy. Additional meetings and activities will be planned to promote partnerships and help our students learn the value of international and language studies to their future careers. Our Chinese teachers for next year have been confirmed. (attached)
- SLSD will host a 2 day summer technology professional development summit at the high school in partnership with our local Project Red Signature Schools- Salisbury and Quakertown, along with Palisades SD. Workshops will address a variety of PD topics related to 21st century learning with many being presented by educators, for educators. We have secured sponsorship from HP, Intel, Discovery Education, Apple, and Integra One, to name a few... with national keynote speakers, workshop presenters, and door prizes/give-a-ways for teachers. The event is planned for August and there is still much to plan. Administrators and Technology staff from our four schools are working cooperatively to plan what hope to be an amazing learning opportunity for teachers and administrators.
- Mrs. Lewis and I attended a PASA conference in the beginning of May, with national consultant Cherie Lovre, of Crisis Management Institute, as the main presenter for the series of workshops. Cherie specializes in crisis management and community relations surrounding crisis. She presented many helpful ideas and free resources on helping students, parents, staff and community to manage grief and other feelings that arise during unexpected events that impact schools. We have already utilized some of Ms. Lovre's strategies.