



Superintendent's Report

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Date: August 21, 2017

We are looking forward to our students returning from what we hope was a restful summer break, and we are looking forward to the students and the staff returning to new and improved facilities. It may seem like our primary focus has been on construction of late, but it is also important to mention that we have also been focusing on curriculum changes that are necessary to help us improve student achievement. Here are some of the things we are working on relative to instruction and non-instruction:

Curriculum and Instruction:

- **Student Achievement results:** We have been sifting through the raw student achievement data from PSSAs and Keystone exams and we will provide some information about the scores as upcoming meetings.
- **Content Leaders:** Prior to this year, we had department chairs for several curriculum areas at the high school. Working with the WH Education Association, we have transitioned from department chairs at the high school to Content Area Leaders at the K-6 level and the 7-12 level. We have a great deal of curriculum revision work that must be accomplished, and these leaders will play a significant role in that process. You will see that we have them listed on the board agenda tonight. The first meeting with the new content leaders is this Wednesday.
- **Curriculum Mapping:** One barrier to student achievement is misaligned curriculum. Our staff is working with the curriculum folks to bring the written curriculum more in line with the PA Core Standards.
- **enVision Math:** The newly adopted math program implementation is underway. There was a K-6 inservice day on August 2nd, which is a trade-off day for the February inservice day. The curriculum folks are looking for ways to imbed some parent information in the upcoming Back to School Night.
- **Title I Changes:** This will be the last year we will be a targeted Title I school. Targeted Title I schools must very carefully use this federal funding with very specific students. Our Title I population has grown to the point that we can become a School-wide Title I program. School-wide programs have more regulatory flexibility to meet more students' needs. For us, that would mean that Title monies could be used to serve the upper grades at the elementary level. For 2017-18, Title monies will fund two Title I Interventionists and four Title I aides. They will work with our neediest students K-4. (We are also using district funds for an additional Interventionist who can work with students in grades 5 and 6.)

Construction:

- **High School:**
 - **Gym:** The gymnasium is complete, and we have the occupancy permit as of today.
- **Elementary School on Diamond Ave.:**
 - **Opening:** The first student day is still scheduled for September 5, 2017. Some areas will not be ready on the first day of school:
 - **Cafeteria and Kitchen:** Some change orders initiated for this space have pushed the timeline back, and this space will not be ready until approximately October 1. The food services people are making preparations to satellite meals. Cafeteria tables will be set up in the gym area. PhysEd classes will be held outside, weather permitting.
 - **Library:** This area will not be complete on opening day, but it will have little impact on the opening of school.
 - **Paving:** The parking area paving starts this week. Final completion is dependent upon the weather.
 - **Exterior:** Stair wells will be sealed and enclosed this week, and the cement board siding is nearing completion.
 - **Interior:** The elevators are installed and functioning. They will be inspected on the 28th. Flooring is complete on the second and third floors, and they should be finished on the first floor this week. Most of the casework is installed.
 - **Occupancy:** We met today with the Westmont Borough Code Enforcement, and we will have occupancy pending successful fire/safety systems testing and completion of interior items.
 - **Press Box:** The electrical line from the building to the press box was severed during construction because it was not marked on the plans. Instead of hiring the contractor to run a new line, we decided to have our maintenance staff fix the issue. They are doing so by trenching a line from the concession stand to the press box and tapping into the existing wiring infrastructure.
 - **JV Football Game:** The venue for the August 28th JV football game with Forest Hills has been moved to FHHS due to the press box wiring and the score board installation. We expect those items to be ready in time for the first varsity home game on September 2nd.
- **Elementary School on Goucher St.:** The Administration is reviewing options for the future of this building. From this point on, we will be referring to this facility as the Goucher Street property to avoid confusion with the new elementary.
- **First Teacher Day:** The entire teaching staff will begin the day on August 28th at the secondary building. Following breakfast and opening remarks the elementary and the secondary will hold their faculty meetings. Following that, all teachers will head over to the new elementary building. This will be the first opportunity for elementary teachers to prepare their classrooms for students. The secondary teachers will be there, too, to help their colleagues prepare their classrooms.