

## School Board Recognition

January is School Director Recognition Month. Tonight, we honor nine individuals for their dedication and service to the students and families of the Norristown Area School District. I wanted to share a few things you may not know about school boards or our members.

A school board is a legislative body of citizens who are elected locally by their fellow citizens and who serve as the governing body of each public school district. Each board consists of nine members who serve four-year terms of office. Unlike most other elected officials, school directors receive no compensation for their work even though the position requires them to dedicate many hours to it.

Working with the superintendent of schools to form the district's leadership team of ten, a school board's most important responsibilities for deliberation and decision-making are closely linked, forming a critical governance loop that involves Planning, Legislating, Empowering professional staff, and Evaluating results

Although the law does not give individual powers to school directors beyond their voices and votes at school board meetings, they do have a number of important individual responsibilities in order to be effective in contributing to the board's collective functions. Some collective functions of school boards mandated by law:

- Adopt courses of study in consultation with the superintendent.
- Approve the school calendar.
- Adopt textbooks.
- Appoint a superintendent of schools and hire the necessary teachers and other employees.
- Engage in good faith collective bargaining with units of unionized employees.
- Adopt an annual budget.
- Levy taxes and appoint tax collectors under certain circumstances.
- Provide for the necessary school facilities.
- Adopt and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding school activities, publications and organizations.
- Ensure that specialized instruction and accommodations are provided for children with cognitive or physical disabilities.

We are fortunate to have an amazing team of school directors who prioritize providing the very best educational experience for our students. Their words, and more importantly their actions,

show that they value community with their recognition of the contributions everyone makes to this great school district.

Please accept these gifts as a small token of our appreciate for all you do.

READ RESOLUTION.

Superintendent's Report - January 2019

Good Evening Everyone.

This past Friday marked the 90th student day of the 2018-2019 school year. We are officially in the 2nd half of our academic year. While we have accomplished a great deal, including the rollout of over 1200 Chromebooks, the implementation of our new Science curriculum and materials, the hiring of new administrative staff, and ratification of two long-term contracts with our professional and support staff, we still have much to do as we continue to develop new Social Studies curriculum, begin preparations for our 1-1 technology initiative at NAHS next year, launch our new website, and continue to accelerate the growth and learning of our students as we gear up for state assessments coming in late April.

Last week, I had the opportunity to testify at a policy hearing on fair funding for schools hosted by State Representative Chris Rabb of Philadelphia. It was an honor to share the stage with superintendents from Lancaster, Pottstown, and Upper Darby to share our story on the inadequate levels of funding we receive from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It was great to see the genuine interest of our state lawmakers regarding this issue and I am hopeful that we were able to share with them information and talking points to influence their colleagues to hopefully begin to introduce change with this coming legislative session and fiscal year.

Our District Cultural Proficiency committee continues its work and is making good progress on implementing our goals and action steps. To further this work, we recognize the importance of engaging students, families, and community members. We would like to invite everyone to a community event on Tuesday, March 26, at 6:00 pm at Eisenhower. More details will be forthcoming.

Our students continue to accomplish great things and showcase their talents outside of our district. Our students from each of our middle schools participated in the Future Cities

competition, a project-based learning program where students imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future. Each of the schools were recognized with special awards from the judges. Our Robotics teams participated at qualification competitions for both middle school and high school levels over the weekend. Team 255A won the Judges award while Team 255P won the Sportsmanship Award. We look forward to showcasing these students at future Board meetings.

Please mark your calendars for the following dates through February:

- Early dismissal for grades 5-12 tomorrow, January 29, for teachers to complete end of marking period grading
- Education and Technology Committee meets Tuesday, February 5
- Policy Committee meets Monday, February 11
- Pupil Services Committee meets Tuesday, February 12
- Facilities and Finance Committee meets Wednesday, February 13
- No school for students on Friday, February 15. It is a full day of Professional Development for teachers.
- Schools and Offices are closed on Monday, February 18, for President's Day.
- The next Work Session of the Board is Tuesday, February 19.

Lastly, we would like to announce the launch of a new safety and student wellness tool available across Pennsylvania through the Attorney General's Office. Safe 2 Say Something is an anonymous tip line where students can contact the crisis center 24 hours a day, seven days a week to report information via phone, mobile app, or website. The crisis center activates local school and emergency personnel to respond to the tip in a proactive and preventative manner. The Office of the Attorney General will be providing training to all middle school and high school students in the coming weeks. A letter will be going home this week with students with additional information being posted on the district website.

This concludes the Superintendent's Report for the month of January.