

Superintendent's Report - September 2018

Good Evening Everyone.

Though the weather and road construction tried to get in our way, I am please to report we have had a very successful opening of school. Now we settle in for our first five day school week since we have opened.

We were fortunate to have an opportunity to partner with the Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library on a grant they received to "Revisit the Founding Era". The library was gracious to support a presentation for high school students by Ned Hector, black hero of the Battle of Brandywine. The reenactment shared not only what it was like to serve during the American Revolution, but also the challenge of being a soldier of color. We offer special thanks to Mr. Noah Lewis, who portrays Ned Hector, for his performances on September 12 and 15 in our community.

September brings the start of school for students and the first opportunities to parents to learn about our programs this year. We have hosted our Back to School Nights over the past several weeks with tremendous turnouts at all levels. We invite our parents and community members to continue to partner with teachers and administrators to ensure a successful year for all students.

Our five year technology plan is officially underway. With special thanks to Mr. Long and his team, we have deployed over 1000 Chromebooks since the first day of school. With all of our schools involved and benefitting from this increase in available technology for students, we have taken deliberate steps in getting the high school ready for our planned move to 1-1 next year. The high school currently has 43 Chromebook carts, totally over 1200 devices. With the arrival of the cases, distribution of teacher Chromebooks also began last week.

We are pleased that Dr. Barbara Moore Williams will be continuing with us this year as a consultant to assist our work related to Cultural Proficiency and Diversity. Our first staff session was held last week and included training for a new group of teacher leaders. Our District Cultural Proficiency Committee will continue its work with a scheduled meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, September 25, from 6-7:30 pm in the Board Room. Everyone is invited to attend and join our work.

Each year, the Rotary Club of Norristown distributes bilingual English-Spanish dictionaries to all 3rd grade students in the Norristown Area School District. We sincerely appreciate our partnership with the Rotary Club and thank them for continuing this project again this year. Rotary members will be visiting our elementary schools over the next two weeks to personally hand each student their own personal dictionary.

To ensure we are embracing our goals this year to “Be The Leader” and to demonstrate that teaching and learning are the most important things in our schools, the administrative team will be using the month of October to visit each school with a process we call “Looking in on Instruction”. Principals, Assistant Principals, Supervisors, and Cabinet members will visit each school to spend time in classrooms designated by the building principal. We use this opportunity to provide “noticings and wonderings” to help the principal drive the educational program to best meet the needs of all students.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Norristown Area High School’s Hall of Fame-Hall of Champions Dinner. The event will take place on Thursday, October 25, at Presidential Catering. Anyone interested in attending should visit the high school website for more information. Tickets are \$40 per person and the reservation deadline is October 5.

Please mark your calendars for the following dates in October:

- Education and Technology Committee Meeting - Tue 10/2
- Policy Committee - Mon 10/8
- Pupil Services - Tue 10/9
- Facilities and Finance Committee - Wed 10/10
- Early Dismissal for Professional Development - Tue 10/16
- Hall of Fame Champions Dinner - Thu 10/25

Finally, I will be putting together a committee to work on district branding. Students, parents, staff, community members and alumni are invited and should look for more information to be coming in the month of October.

This concludes the Superintendent’s Report for the month of September.