

# REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 13

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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### Superintendent's Update

February 7, 2014

Dear Parents and Families,

This week marks the end of my first month in District 13. Beginning my tenure in January provided me with the opportunity to jump right into the fabric of our school community. The weekly weather challenges have added a dimension to scheduling...and rescheduling many in and out of school events. I do want you to know that the process of cancelling school or deciding to arrive late or dismiss early involves real time updates from a meteorologist, conversations with our Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds regarding road and school conditions, and conversations with area superintendents. The safety of our students, with a special consideration for those who drive themselves to school, as well as all adults is our primary concern. Our custodial staff does an exceptional job with snow removal and it is this team that makes it possible for us to get back in school as soon as possible.

I would like to share some information and updates with you.

**Communication:** Please feel free to contact me at [kveronesi@rsd13.org](mailto:kveronesi@rsd13.org), or by calling my assistant Mrs. Rosemary Allen at 349-7200 to arrange a time to talk with me on the phone or to meet in person. I will send an update via email during the first week of each month. For communications relative to our schools please visit our district and school web-sites. Please follow us on Twitter as well!

**School Budget:** Ron Melnik, School Business Manager, and I will be presenting the proposed school budget for the 2014-2015 school year at the Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. The meeting will be held in the Strong School Library. Some dates to keep in mind as we move forward in the budget process include: Board Meetings February 12, February 26, March 5, March 12, March 19, Public Hearing April 8, District Meeting May 5 and Tentative Referendum May 6.

**School Utilization Study:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Community Workshop will be held in the CRHS auditorium on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 p.m. The study that was conducted by DRA and the public workshops are a part of the process by which we will make decisions regarding the best way to utilize space given the current enrollment decline and the continued projected declining enrollment in the foreseeable future. The Board of Education's priority is to direct the maximum resources possible to educational programming, and therefore it is imperative that we look at our building usage in light of declining enrollment and other considerations. At the workshop on the 19<sup>th</sup> an analysis of the projected enrollment will be reviewed as well as a comparison of potential options for the use of school space in our district. This endeavor is a

work in progress and the purpose of the workshops is to inform and gather information from the public. Please know that your ideas and opinions are sought. At the end of the evening, Kerrie Flanagan, BOE Chairperson will share the next steps in the process.

**High School Principal Search:** The search process has begun for finding a principal for CRHS. The job has been posted and focus groups (scheduled for this week) will be held next week. A parent focus group will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup> from 7-8 p.m. in the CRHS Library. If you would like to attend please call Mrs. Rosemary Allen at 349-7200 to RSVP. If you are unable to attend, but would like to share your thoughts, you may take the brief on-line survey by going to the District website. The survey will be up and running next week. Our goal is to appoint a new principal in May with a start date no later than July 1<sup>st</sup>. Your feedback is welcome and appreciated.

**Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC):** This year students in grades 3-9, and grades 10 and 11 will be taking the SBAC rather than the CMT or CAPT. This year's test is a field test, or what is being referred to as a "test of the test". Essentially the test developers will determine if the test measures accurately those skills that have been targeted. More specific information will be sent to you from the Curriculum Office by next month. Designated testing windows are April 28<sup>th</sup> –May 16<sup>th</sup> for grades 3-8 and April 7<sup>th</sup> –April 25<sup>th</sup> for the high school.

Finally, I want you to know how impressed I am with our school community. The obvious pride and commitment to students and learning is evident in all that I see. Our core ethical values of respect, responsibility, honesty, kindness, and courage exist throughout our buildings. Come and visit and see for yourself.

Happy Valentine's Day everyone!

Sincerely,

Kathryn Y. Veronesi, Ed.D.