

Interim Superintendent's Report August 11, 2020

Reopening Schools Updates:

We continue to work nearly around the clock to prepare for reopening our schools and for teaching and learning while keeping the health and safety of our students and staff as our number #1 priority. The Opening Days for our staff are next week, and students will begin school 2 weeks from today. Teachers have been in their classrooms and are gearing up to teach both in person and virtual lessons. We asked parents to select the best educational option for their children by today, and we are in the process of planning for all of the educational options for our students. Information, mandates and recommendations are constantly changing. We will be as flexible as possible and plan for every aspect of resuming teaching and learning and anticipate any potential challenges we may face.

Title IX

New laws and regulations are set to take effect on August 14, 2020. On tonight's agenda is an item that will allow us to follow the laws as we work through all of the legal requirements, trainings, and policy and practices changes.

Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Update:

Over the past 2 weeks, the following has occurred:

- I made initial contact with our IU and began some preliminary discussions regarding an equity audit of our curriculum.
- Mrs. Simpson and Mr. Baughman continued to gather more resources and ideas for our comprehensive process and initial steps to our plans. As an example, they participated in zoom meetings and webinars regarding inclusion, diversity and equity through PSBA and PASA.
- Mr. Baughman reached out to Dr. Heather Bennett at PSBA who will be working with us through the process. She can provide diversity awareness and equity trainings for us among many other services and support. I will be connecting with her within the next 2 weeks as well.
- Mr. Baughman and Mrs. Simpson met virtually with Dr. Chatters from the State College Area School District. She, too, is very excited about working with us.
- As part of our mandatory Opening Day activities for all staff, we secured Dr. Sam Andrews as a guest speaker who will present information regarding inclusion, diversity, and equity.

We are still on target with our timeline and plans as presented at the Board meeting on July 14, 2020. All of these activities will support the proposed timeline activities for August and September which were:

Formation of the IDE Committee: August - September 2020

- a. Establish/create mission and vision of the committee
- b. Establish/create belief statements
- c. Establish/create goals of the committee
- d. Review current research and best practices

More information about our progress and more details will be shared at the next Board meeting on September 8,, 2020.