

Mary Birks
School Board President
School Board Report
July 17, 2017

SEL Award

I am pleased to announce tonight that Chrissa Sullivan, a family consumer science teacher at Jefferson Middle School, was selected by Education First, NoVo Foundation and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors as the first teacher selected for their 2017 Social Emotional Learning Innovation Awards for Teachers. The organization received over 800 applications that were vetted through a highly competitive process. We are very proud that Chrissa was among only 12% of applicants selected, and the only teacher in Pennsylvania, to receive the award. The award was based on Chrissa's submission of a mindful eating supplemental curriculum to be instituted at JMS next year through their family consumers science courses.

The SEL Innovation Fund sought proposals from individual educators, teams of educators and district leaders seeking to improve learning environments that foster social and emotional skills in fresh, inventive or innovative ways. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process of developing fundamental skills for life success within supportive, participatory learning environments. SEL skills include recognizing and managing emotions, developing caring and concern for others, establishing positive relationships and making responsible decisions. Chrissa won a grant award and will have the opportunity to present her work to and connect with a group of national SEL practitioners, experts and advocates at a meeting later this year. I would like to invite Chrissa to come up to receive a certificate of appreciation from the Board.

Dr. Steinhauer Award Presentation

We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Lawrence Wess, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania School Study Council to our meeting tonight. Dr. Wess is here to make a very special award presentation.

ADL Workshop

Tomorrow, the Mt. Lebanon School District, in conjunction with the Anti-Defamation League, is offering ***A World of Difference Institute Workshop*** for Mt. Lebanon administrators and local South Hills school district administrators thanks to the support of School Board member Larry Lebowitz.

The workshop will focus on the following goals to help school districts:

- Create a respectful, inclusive and safe learning environment and community.
- Build an understanding of the value and benefits of diversity.
- Improve intergroup relations.
- Eradicate anti-Semitism, racism, and all forms of bigotry.
- Encourage personal responsibility in the promotion of justice and equity.

Along with all Mt. Lebanon administrators, seven South Hills school districts are participating with 50 of their administrators in attendance.