



Executive Director's Report April 24, 2008

Superintendents' Spring Leadership Conference – 20 of our superintendents/AVTS directors participated in our two-day conference which focused on high school reform. The results of that conference will help determine future collaborative regional efforts to improve student results.

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Concerns – PDE's Special Education Bureau Director John Tommasini wrote a letter to me and copied in our 24 district superintendents regarding concerns about our new school and his perception of potential LRE violations. I have prepared a letter and supporting documentation in response to his concerns which will be sent pending legal review. There appears to be a misunderstanding by PDE that our new school is being leased to accommodate additional rather than replacement space. PDE is under substantial scrutiny on this issue due to the settlement agreement reached after a lawsuit was filed against the Department.

PA Academic Standards Revision Project – Special Projects Coordinator Mark Hennes, Jean Dyszel (contracted consultant), and I transferred the completed math and language arts drafts to Deputy Secretary Diane Castelbuono and State Board Executive Director Jim Buckheit on April 10, 2008.

PA Department of Education Liaison to Harrisburg School District – CAIU staff members have been working with the district to implement the achievement acceleration plan. I am in regular contact with Harrisburg leadership team. On April 21, I met with Senator Piccola at his request to discuss the status of the district's plan. On April 23, I met with Secretary Zahorchak to provide an update on the district's progress. Brian Griffith, Karen Ruddle and I met with Sherri Rowe, PDE Division Chief for School Improvement, to discuss Harrisburg's situation.

Facilities Update – Parking lot expansion is on schedule. Internal office changes are moving forward as planned.

Annual Goal #1: Entry Plan

The Executive Director will develop and complete an entry plan which focuses on establishing relationships with key stakeholder groups (CAIU Board, CAEA, CAIU staff, Superintendents, PDE, local legislators, PAIU executive directors, area business and community leaders, state professional associations, and regional higher education leadership personnel).

- ✓ Coordinated a meeting on proposed changes to High School Graduation Requirements (GCAs) which included State Board Chair Karl Girton, State Board Executive Director Jim Buckheit, Superintendents Sherri Smith and Rich Fry, CPAVTS Director Mary Rodman, IU 13 Executive Director Cindy Burkhart, and Brian Griffith.
- ✓ Continued visitations to district board meetings to introduce myself and share information about CAIU services associated with our districts' contribution to our general operating budget. To date, I have visited 12 districts (CV, NY, Susq Twp, WP, Susquenita, Mech, CH, LD, Carlisle, Shipp, WS, BS) and have 7 more scheduled (East Pennsboro, Derry Twp, Middletown, Newport, South Middleton, Millersburg, Upper Dauphin). Central Dauphin, Harrisburg, Greenwood, Steelton-Highspire and Halifax are not yet scheduled.
- ✓ Met with the CAIU Technology Services Leadership Team and then with the entire Technology Services staff to review the process for replacing Carl Heininger, Director.
- ✓ Met with CAEA President Kathie Thomas and PSEA Uni-serve Rep Mark Kornfeld to discuss various issues.

- ✓ Presented plaques to each of the district members of the Capital Region Partnership for Career Development at the annual Superintendents' Luncheon sponsored by CRPCD.
- ✓ Coordinated a legislative breakfast for our superintendents. Six local legislators participated, including Senator Pat Vance and Representatives Mark Keller, Glenn Grell, Will Gabig, Sue Helm, and Scott Perry.
- ✓ Met with Ed Messner, CEO of the West Shore Chamber of Commerce, to discuss value to CAIU of continuing our membership.
- ✓ Attended the Junior Achievement luncheon at the Radisson Penn Harris Conference Center. Penn State President Graham Spanier was the keynote speaker.
- ✓ Met with Jim Sheffer, Executive Director of the PA Association of Federal Program Coordinators, to discuss possible service agreements.
- ✓ Participated in the Judge Marjorie Rendell's Summit on Civics Education at the Governor's Mansion.

Annual Goal #2: Strategic Plan

The Executive Director will develop and begin to implement a strategic plan designed to achieve and sustain the CAIU mission.

- ✓ Developed initial draft for 2007-2008 Client Satisfaction Survey which will provide feedback for developing strategic priorities.
- ✓ Continuing to meet with Directors and Leadership Team to further develop Plan.

Annual Goal #3: Student Facilities

The Executive Director will secure student facilities which meet programmatic needs for center-based students.

- ✓ Met with Nancy Saidis, professional fund raiser, Alicia McDonald and Shawn Farr to determine ways in which we can follow up on several inquiries from individuals and companies who wish to support our new school project.
- ✓ Had follow-up meeting with Brad Jones of the Harristown Development Authority who was joined by representatives from a postsecondary art school to further investigate partnerships and available space for CASA in downtown Harrisburg. The current lease with Salem Church expires in June 2009.
- ✓ Met with Alicia McDonald and Brian Griffith to coordinate site visits to all early intervention and special education classrooms located in non-district settings.

Annual Goal #4: Public Awareness

The Executive Director will enhance public awareness of the CAIU through improved public relations efforts and through the internal organization's awareness of the CAIU mission.

- ✓ Served as a speaker at the Leadership Harrisburg session on education, held on April 2 at HACC Midtown Campus.

Annual Goal #5: Instructional Technology Solutions

The Executive Director will provide leadership in 1) establishing PAIUnet, a private, high speed, statewide internet service for IUs and school districts; and 2) developing a strategic regional approach to distance learning solutions.

- ✓ Begandy Enterprises has been selected to conduct the needs assessment and distance learning inventory with our districts over the next two months.
- ✓ Our PAIUnet Governance Committee completed its work on the Articles of Agreement which were approved for IU Board action by the PAIU Executive Directors.
- ✓ Participated in meeting facilitated by Dellicker Strategies to coordinate PAIUnet activities with the PA State System for Higher Education and PA Public Television officials.
- ✓ Attended the Center for Advancing Partnerships in Education (CAPE) conference on distance learning with keynote presentation by Susan Patrick, CEO and President of North American Council for Online Learning.
- ✓ Participated in conference call with technology/cyber learning futurist Alan November in preparation for PAIU Spring Conference.