

Executive Director's Report to the Board

April 23, 2009

News

All CAIU Board members and Superintendents are strongly encouraged to attend the official Champions for Children Capital Campaign Kickoff hosted by Lois Lehrman Grass and our campaign co-chairs David Skerpon and Dr. Marc Bauer on Tuesday, April 28 at the Capital BlueCross offices on Elmerton Ave. The event will begin at 5:30 pm and include hors d'oeuvres and beverages provided by JDK Catering. Several CASA and Hill Top students and families will be in attendance, along with some of our primary contributors. Please plan to attend since the gifts provided by our patrons directly benefit our districts by offsetting costs that would otherwise have to be charged through tuition and facility fees.

All CAIU Board members are cordially invited to attend the 8th Annual Celebration of Retirees and Staff scheduled for Thursday, May 21, at the Susquehanna Club of the New Cumberland Defense Depo. Please let me know if you are able to attend.

The CAIU Superintendents and local legislators met on Wednesday, April 8 for their annual legislative breakfast. Legislative attendees included Senator Jeff Piccola, Representative Sheryl Delozier, Representative Glenn Grell, staff members from the offices of Senator Vance and Representative Scott Perry, and Aaron Shenck who is the Deputy Executive Director of the Senate Education Committee. Topics discussed ranged from school district consolidation to PSERS increases to stimulus funding and more.

Governor Rendell will be conducting his third civics lesson from the CAIU in early May. These lessons are delivered across the Commonwealth via PAIUnet, our state-wide, private high-speed network.

The CAIU Superintendents had a very successful Spring Leadership Conference March 31-April 2. Facilitators Mike Clemens and Pat Crawford, retired superintendents and consultants to the PA Inspired Leadership, conducted a study of John P. Kotter's book, A Sense of Urgency. Participants read the book beforehand and are responsible for a series of follow-up activities unique to their own district needs. Act 45 credits required for school administrators will be awarded when the study ends in June 2010. Thanks to Brad Remig at Public Financial Management (PFM) and Doug Wendt at Wendt Partners for helping to underwrite the cost of this event.

Congratulations to our talented website developers for earning another award for the new CAIU website. The Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association (PenSPRA) presented the CAIU with its Award of Excellence in educational communications. The website was judged by a panel of independent professionals for its general appearance, ease of navigating, layout and design, links, and message.

For more news about the CAIU, please visit our website and click *news and events* at the top of the page to access our press releases, press coverage and "Amy's Notes" (my blog of good news about CAIU staff and students).

Updates

To date, we have twelve districts returning their Capital Area Online Learning Association (CAOLA) contracts, with four more districts still awaiting board action. Mark Hennes and I have met with two other intermediate units and are responding to two more that have an interest in learning more about this solution.

Central PA Business Journal has postponed its publication of the special supplement on the CAIU until September 11, 2009. However, they have been working diligently on both the articles and the advertising, and we anticipate a terrific publication.

Upcoming Travel:

- May 22-27: Family vacation/college visits to Boston MA
- June 4-6: PAIU Annual Spring Conference in State College PA (all Cabinet members)

Notification of Activities:

- General Session Speaker at 40th Annual PA Association of Federal Programs Conference on April 7, 2009 – “Title I: The Original Standards-Aligned System”
- University of PA School Study Council – Cindy Mortzfeldt and I attended a session on “creating public value for education” in Philadelphia on April 15, 2009. We shared an enjoyable train ride with Joe Hood and Alan Vandrew from Mechancsburg Area SD.
- PAIUnet Project Management Team Meetings – every Monday morning from 8:30 – 9:00 am

This has been a difficult month due to the death of my beloved Tom. Thanks to all of you who have offered your kind thoughts and heartfelt prayers. - Amy