

Executive Director's Report to the Board

May 28, 2009

News

Congratulations to Barbara Kauffman, ANPS counselor, who was the winner of the first drawing for employees contributing to the Champions for Children Capital Campaign. Barbara will spend a week at a resort in Hawaii, a destination she chose from over 70 available through my contribution of a Wyndham timeshare vacation.

I attended the PSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference on April 26-27. The primary topics for discussion included the Graduation Competency Assessments, now referred to as the Keystone Exams; school consolidation, including a report indicating that such a move does not save money; and stimulus funding.

The Champions for Children Capital Campaign officially started on April 28 with the Leadership Gifts Kickoff event held at Capital Blue Cross. Thanks to all of the district administrators and board members who attended this event.

On April 29 I testified before the House Republican Policy Committee on the topic of remediation for college students. My testimony is included with this report. Thanks to the superintendents and Stinson Stroup of PASA who provided input for this testimony.

Also on April 29 I was invited to join with the Senators Piccola and Dinniman and Representative Roebuck, as well as leaders from PSBA, PSEA, and PDE to discuss how to reach a compromise on the Keystone Exams. This meeting was followed by a session with the Education Committee chairs from the Senate and House to draft legislation.

On May 5 the Cabinet completed its seventh district visit of the year, this time traveling to Upper Dauphin to meet with their administrative team. This completes this year's visits. At our July Cabinet retreat, we will be discussing the ideas generated from our visits to determine future services.

Congratulations to the staff and students at CASA for the tremendous production of "Green" they created and performed on May 6 at the Whitaker Center. The Gala event preceding the performance was very well attended and raised nearly \$15,000 for the school's operational budget.

The superintendents held their monthly meeting in May at the Whitaker Center, where we enjoyed a tour and brief presentation highlighting some of the opportunities available for students and educators in downtown Harrisburg.

Updates

On May 7, Mark Hennes and I met with Provost Systems President Anthony Kim and Edison Learning founder, John Chubb of Stanford University, to discuss the expansion of the Capital Area On Line Learning Association (CAOLA). Mark and I also visited with the IU 12 superintendents on May 18 who wanted to hear more about this initiative. The new CAOLA website is now live at <http://caola.caiu.org> and summer school registrations are well underway. We also hired our new program supervisor for this project, Holly Bryzcki, who comes to us from her current role as curriculum director at Commonwealth Connections Academy. Holly has been an active member of the CAIU's Curriculum Advisory Council for the past several years and embraces the vision for CAOLA - a continuum of on-line options for students in public schools.

On May 18 I had the pleasure of attending the WGAL Teacher Impact Awards where local educators Bruce Rowland of Carlisle Area School District and Bob Brightbill of Dauphin County Technical School

were honored. Only five teachers from 248 nominees received the coveted Teacher Impact Award. Congratulations to these two fine educators!

CAIU held its 8th Annual Staff Recognition Dinner on May 21 at the Susquehanna Club. Thanks to CAIU Board members Linda Butler and Tony DeLuca for attending this event. We celebrated the careers of many retirees and acknowledged years of service for many others.

Please see attachments including "As I See It" column published in the Sunday Patriot-News on May 24 regarding Hill Top Academy and a letter sent to our local Senators regarding use of stimulus funds. Thanks to Cindy Mortzfeldt who prepared the major portion of this letter on federal funds.

Notification of Activities:

Members of the administrative cabinet will be traveling to State College June 3-5 for the annual PAIU Spring Conference. Cheryl Giles-Rudawski will be serving as administrator-in-charge during our absence.

Cabinet members will be "retreating" July 13-16 in Williamsburg, VA. Expenses charged to the CAIU will only involve mileage and meals. Accommodations have been donated.

Annual Diocesan Conference on Assessment - Brian Griffith will be joining me again this year as we prepare to present our 11th year of conference activities for the leaders of the 8 Dioceses in PA. The Conference is scheduled for July 19-22 in State College.

I will be on a family vacation June 20-24.