

Board President's Report

March 21, 2022

Jacob Wyland

I am excited to take time this evening to welcome and recognize members of our high school student body and staff for their outstanding athletic success during the winter season.

First, I would like to recognize Sylvia Roy for her WPIAL Championship wins in the 50 freestyle and 100 backstroke races, both with All American Honors. She is joined by her coach, Tom Donati.

Next, I would like to welcome to the stage Maclane Stout, who is the WPIAL wrestling Champion in the 189 pound weight class. Mac placed third in the PIAA state competition. His coach is Marc Allemang

Lastly, I would like to congratulate our Girls' Basketball team for winning the WPIAL Championship for 6A. We will invite them next month to attend the meeting as they compete for the PIAA Championship title on Saturday, March 26, in Hershey.

On Thursday, I was able to attend the family unveiling of a new mural at Hoover Elementary School. My children both participated in the creation of this mural through the Mikayla's Voice Foundation, which began in 2019. Due to the pandemic, we were unable to properly unveil the students' work until now. On Friday, Hoover held two assemblies to show students the meaning behind the mural which is to reflect "A Portrait of Kindness." The mural is now hung in the building to illustrate students' kindness and each of their uniqueness. After the original inclusion assembly, then 10-year-old Holden Frye was inspired to write a children's fiction book about the non-profit's logo, a ladybug with one yellow spot.

Dot is a “teenage ladybug with a cool and different look, and life is good...but it wasn’t always that way.” The challenges she faces are relatable to any child who has ever felt different. Holden participated in the presentations by reading his published work with the students in attendance. We would like to welcome Holden here this evening to receive a certificate for his hard work in writing this book.

Next month, we will welcome each of the students who participated in the creation of this mural so that they can be recognized for their dedication and outstanding efforts in making sure Hoover students know they are all unique and have a place in their school.

Before we wrap up, I would like to take a moment and introduce Mrs. Kimberly Resh, founder of Mikayla’s Voice and invite her to say a few words about her organization and the project at Hoover.

The Mission Statement of the Mt. Lebanon School District is to provide the Best Education Possible for each and every student. We cannot meet the mandate of this mission unless every student regardless of race, gender, ability or socio-economic status is fully included in all aspects of our world class public school education.

Inclusion is not a program. It is a mindset. It is the way we treat each other and the way they treat us. Inclusion is the opportunity to learn together and from one another. We do it because it is the right thing to do.

All of our students are blessed with different gifts and abilities. All of our students have value and potential. All of our students are different from all of our other students. There is beauty, empathy and diversity of experience to be gained by all when everyone is included.

To segregate students labeled as needy means we have failed in our mission.

Thank you Ms. Resh for your work, your message and your inspiration.
Thank you Dr. Giehl, Mrs. Gamble, Mrs. Cornell, Mrs. Ehland, Mrs. Landau
and the entire Hoover team for your work on this wonderful and important
project.

I am happy to celebrate this message of inclusion today, Down Syndrome
Awareness day.