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Superintendent of Schools

Etown Essentials

To begin tonight, I want to share a new communications initiative we've launched called Etown Essentials, designed to help our families and community better understand the resources, services, and operations that support our schools.

Not every important school district story makes headlines. Some of the most valuable information we share involves the everyday resources, services, and operations that support our schools.

That's why we recently launched Etown Essentials, a new social media series highlighting useful sections of our District website that help keep students, families, and our community informed.

Our first installment, released last week, featured our Facility Information Center. From responsible stewardship of our school facilities and ongoing environmental monitoring to maintenance challenges and the District's response, this webpage provides a centralized resource for information about the buildings and grounds that support teaching and learning.

Through Etown Essentials, we'll continue highlighting these important resources and making District information more accessible, practical, and useful to the community we serve.

Indoor Air Quality Testing and Facility Information Center

I also want to provide an update on our indoor air quality monitoring efforts.

We're moving forward with an expanded quarterly indoor air quality testing program across the District, building on our

commitment to maintaining safe and healthy learning environments for students and staff.

Testing results will be made publicly available through our Facility Information Center on the District website, which also serves as a central resource for environmental reports and other important facilities information.

This is about following through on our commitments and making sure our families and community have access to the information they need.

Congressman Smucker's Visit

We recently had the opportunity to welcome United States Congressman Lloyd Smucker to the Elizabethtown Area School District.

The visit provided an opportunity to share more about the work happening in our schools and engage in conversation about public education and the opportunities we provide our students.

We value opportunities to connect with elected representatives at all levels of government, share firsthand what is happening across EASD, and discuss the needs and priorities of our school community.

Student Voice and Electronic Device Policy

And finally, I also want to follow up on a student concern raised during public comment at one of our recent Board meetings.

A High School student approached the Board with a petition asking members to consider a change to our electronic device policy that would allow students to use their cell phones during lunch.

Since that time, our Policy Committee leadership, policy committee liaisons, and Dr. D'Amico have been working to coordinate an opportunity to meet with Jayden and discuss her proposal.

In the meantime, the Commonwealth has passed new legislation addressing student mobile device use in schools. While we continue to evaluate what that legislation means for our existing policy and what flexibility may be available, we are moving forward with our meeting with Jayden this Thursday morning. Our Policy Committee chairs, Ms. Wilson and Mrs. Shrum, along with Mr. Portser, Ms. Moffett, and Dr. D'Amico, will participate in that conversation.

At the same time, I am working with colleagues here in our District and across Lancaster County to better understand the legislation and its implications. Once we have greater clarity, we can determine whether there are opportunities to accommodate elements of Jayden's proposal and potentially bring the policy back before the Board for further consideration.

Regardless of the outcome, I want to recognize Jayden for taking the initiative to bring her concerns forward in a thoughtful and constructive way. I also want to thank our Board members and District team for their willingness to listen, engage in meaningful dialogue, and thoughtfully consider student perspectives as part of the policymaking process.

This is exactly the kind of engagement we want to encourage—students using their voice, participating in the process, and helping shape conversations about their school experience.