

Superintendent's Report  
August 25, 2015

Ms. Ruiz reported that we are still continuing with the interview and hiring process. A newly hired art teacher just resigned and more positions still need to be filled. She explained that due to an increase in New York State aid, two new AIS teaching assistant positions were created at the Jr./Sr. High School in Math and Reading/ELA. All AIS services will be provided by licensed certified teachers in that area. A plan will be created to provide those services. Reading support was increased at the elementary schools last year and now the same can be done at the Jr./Sr. High School.

New teacher orientation is taking place Thursday and Friday of this week and introduction of new teachers will take place at the September Board of Education meeting. Workshops on lesson planning, APPR, professional responsibilities, and other topics will be presented. She thanked Ms. Guggino-Hastings, Mr. Piccarella and her summer intern for planning these workshops.

The Board of Education conducted the building walk through today. They viewed all the buildings and observed all the work done during the summer. Ms. Ruiz thanked Mr. Robinson (a/k/a Tour Guide), Mr. Quercia, and the custodial staff in preparing the buildings for the new school year. The floors were all freshly polished. She expressed her thanks to the entire custodial staff for working through the hot humid summer days. The new floor project in the technology building had begun. This project was a result of a major crack in the floor due to Sandy. The new floor has a wood-like finish and she believes the room will be much more functional. The maintenance garage also being worked on.

During her walk through the buildings, Ms. Ruiz saw the new tablets that were purchased for Gr. 5 and Gr. 9 students. Ms. Ruiz commended Mr. Piccarella for the foresight in establishing the infrastructure to support the tablets and looks forward to the program growing.

Mr. Piccarella added that this September students and teachers in Grades 5 and 9 will be receiving tablet computers. Each year students in Grade 5 will receive a tablet computer, which will be replaced when they reach Grade 9. Grade 4 will have class sets of Chromebooks to prepare students for their own tablets in Grade 5. The program will be described at back to school night in each elementary school and at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade parent orientation at the High School. Student and parent responsibilities will be discussed and parents will be able to sign-out the computers for take-home use. Over the past several years the district has prepared for this one-to-one initiative by providing wireless internet access throughout its three buildings, establishing a ten-year capital reserve for technology, and establishing a Google domain for paperless collaboration between and among students and teachers. Teachers were trained by Ms. Schoen, elementary library media specialist, during the summer and took home tablet computers to prepare for this September. These teachers will continue to meet as a group with Ms. Schoen throughout the year. Next steps include training in a variety of Web 2.0 software tools and the delivery of digital content through the Kindle app on the computers.

Ms. Ruiz shared that the ELA/MATH scores were received. There was a large number of opt-outs; 53% of students did not take the ELA exam, and approximately 64% of the students did not take

the Math exam. This percentage of students not taking the tests makes using the data for instructional purposes and assessments a little difficult. Additionally, some teachers did not receive scores. Ms. Ruiz stated that we have other reliable classroom assessments such as NWEA. She will continue to work on data analysis with the faculty. ELA/Math score reports will be sent home next week for those students that took the tests.