

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #71

GOSHEN-LEMPSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

29 SCHOOL ROAD

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January 20, 2011

From: Office of the Superintendent SAU #71- Michele Munson, Ed.D.

To: Residents of Goshen and Lempster

RE: SAU January Update

I am proud and pleased to report on my second year with the Goshen-Lempster School District. This school year has been one of many changes. We started the year with a new principal, Mr. Ralph Peterson, who has initiated many new programs at the school to support improving literacy.

We started the school year with newly painted hallways, redone restrooms, another phase of our roof repaired, and a thorough cleaning. This set the optimistic tone for what we could accomplish as this dedicated team of professionals and paraprofessionals came together to focus on quality education and an atmosphere conducive to learning. Our expectations for the year are to raise the academic bar for our students with more opportunities to improve literacy and to foster stronger ties to the community while continuing to close the achievement gap. We are doing this with our Response to Intervention activities, focus on differentiated instruction, Literacy skill development, and reading for greater understanding. We have expanded use of technology using SMART Boards and involvement with Mistacres School that provides strategic intervention and individualized support through technology. We also expanded our time with a longer school day to focus on learning.

Some of the new aspects to this year's program include an expanded Title 1 program with after school support. There are more sport teams. We have also initiated a program offered by Cinnamon Street to provide after school care to assist our parent needs and to give our students a safe and enjoyable opportunity to complete their homework, engage in social development, and have healthy snacks.

Our teachers and support staff use numerous grant funds to participate in continued and continuous professional development. They have focused on the most effective instructional techniques as they use opportunities discuss and to plan what works for our students. We appreciate the community support for our school and the respect given to our teachers and staff.

We also have planned to use our Safe and Drug Free Schools grant to have Turning Points provide a workshop on bullying, “Connect with Respect” for teachers and 2-3 sessions with each class. If you are interested in finding out more on this program, please contact Mr. Peterson.

Knowing that the state, county, and local community taxes are raising and taking a bigger bite out of your incomes, the School Board and Administration have worked to develop a sound budget that we hope by using funds conservatively, can maintain us in the next year. We are pleased to report although given the rise in costs, we have cut wherever we could and will be requesting less than a half of one percent increase of approximately \$15,000. We hope that you will come to the Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 1 to hear the proposed budget and will also come on Saturday, March 5 to vote. We also have Warrant Articles for a new paraprofessional contract, roof and oil tank repairs, and special education for your consideration. If you would like to have more information on the budget, I would be happy to meet with you individually or with you and your neighbors to answer your questions.

We are in the process of applying for a Twenty First Century Community Grant that would support our students outside of school – both for afterschool and summer learning and enrichment opportunities, and increase community involvement and outreach. I am looking for community members to assist with this grant and would welcome your input, If you are interested in finding out more about the grant and what you might be able to do to help, please call me at 863-2420 x124 prior to January 31. The grant application process is complicated, but doable, and any help you can provide is appreciated, as it must be submitted by March 7, 2011.

Children keep us young and although you may experience days that might dispute that idea, we do hope that you will feel welcome in the school and will visit us often - attending classroom plays, learning fairs, and concerts, as well as by volunteering. Reading aloud or interacting with children on projects is incredibly satisfying and many adults and senior citizens can have a powerful influence as they get to know this new generation and share aspects of their generation with them. So, come in and visit. Set up a time to join our children at lunch, share some aspect of your life or career and perhaps you will have a lasting impact on these young lives and they on yours.

To all our family members and community I offer best wishes for a healthy and happy new year and want to thank you for your continued support to give our students opportunities to learn and succeed.

DR. MICHELE MUNSON
LISA CROSS
SUPERINTENDENT
MANAGER

MR. TIMOTHY KOUMRIAN
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

MS.
FINANCE

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123

EXT. 120

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