



Superintendent's Report February 3, 2022

As you know, our District Diversity Council created an action plan for this school year. The District Diversity Council met yesterday, Wednesday, February 2, 2022, for a progress report on the action plan. I was so proud to report on the amazing progress of our administrators, teachers, staff and students in bringing the action plan to life. Most recently, we observed Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27, 2022, and Lunar New Year on February 1, 2022. Students engaged in age-appropriate lessons on the Holocaust and the Korean Parent Group organized the 12th Annual Lunar New Year assemblies for both schools, followed by playing a Korean game, Yut Nori, in classrooms. February is also Black History Month and teachers are planning lessons on: biographies of Black Americans, read-alouds of stories with Black protagonists, events in the Civil Rights movement, Dr. King's *I Have a Dream* speech, and the Little Rock Nine. Upcoming cultural awareness month celebrations are Arab-American Heritage Month in April, and Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and Jewish-American History Month, both in May. Our students are learning important lessons about the cultures represented in Closter and the world. We are preparing our students to function in a diverse world by understanding other cultures – which is definitely a necessary skill.

Our District Evaluation Advisory Committee met again on Monday, January 31, 2022, to work on creating an optional alternative evaluation process for teachers rated highly effective, to be implemented for the 2022-2023 school year. The process being developed would allow teachers rated highly effective to choose an optional evaluation process in which they would video record their instruction several times during the year, write a reflection on the observed strengths and areas for improvement, and then meet with an administrator to discuss. The highly effective teachers who choose this optional process would still have one observation by an administrator. The DEAC had some questions about how best to communicate the expectations to the eligible teachers and we have reached out to six other New Jersey districts who are already implementing this evaluation option for highly effective teachers to enquire about their processes. The DEAC will meet again this month to continue their work.

Pandemic Update

Since Friday, January 21, 2022 (the day after my last report), we have had 10 students at Hillside Elementary School and 13 students at Tenakill Middle School test positive for COVID-19, which is 1.9% of our total student population. Since January 21, 2022, we have had one staff member test positive in the district, which is .5% of our staff population. Since September 2, 2022, the cumulative number of students who have been COVID-19 positive is 238, which is 20% of the student population. With regard to vaccinations:

Hillside Elementary School

- 94% of staff are vaccinated and 35% have been boosted
- 36.4% of students are vaccinated; *HES students are not eligible for a booster*

Tenakill Middle School

- 97% of staff are vaccinated and 40% have been boosted
- 26% of students are vaccinated and 5% have been boosted

Vincent Mc Hale