

Dear Parents, Students, Faculty, Staff and Community Members,

I know it is hard to believe that summer is winding down and a new school year is almost upon us. I think the ads for school supplies began three weeks after school let out! Parents and students are wondering who their teachers will be, teachers have already begun setting up their classrooms and by the time you receive this newsletter, we will have welcomed several new teachers to the Iroquois Family.

As you will read in detail of the curriculum work that has taken place written by our Assistant Superintendent, Brian Wiesinger, I would be remiss if I did not offer a few comments on the incredible work of our teachers and administrators. So often, people wonder if many of us even work in the summer. In some way, there is more research, planning and collaboration than what is possible during the school year. I would venture to say that we have had somewhere near three quarters of our teachers involved in some training or curriculum development this summer. Topics included Thoughtful Classroom training, K-12 English Language Arts curriculum revisions, a thorough look at our writing curriculum as well as developing instructional technology benchmarks K-12. Other than the smiling faces on children excited while learning, there is not that can please me more than to see groups of teachers engaged in serious professional dialogue about what we can do to improve teaching and learning for our students. I would venture to estimate that there were 10 or less days since school let out in June that there hasn't been some kind of professional development or curriculum work.

As an administrative team and Board of Education, we have spent many hours planning our school year, looking at student performance data to determine what areas we want to further improve and to set district and Board goals for the year. Our Board has been extremely supportive and reflective about the past year. We have made communication and developing relationships a priority. We know the success of any business or school is to develop strong positive relationships with our community, our students, our staff as well as our administrators. At the September Board Meeting we will share our district and Board goals for the 2008-2009 school year.

As you know the Board and Facilities Committee has been discussing a proposed capital project to bring before the voters. Preliminary Plans are complete as well as the projections for the necessary financing. At the August Board meeting, the Board will have passed all the necessary resolutions to move forward. In the coming weeks you will be informed through various avenues regarding the scope and cost impact of the proposed project. If we are able to meet our timeline, we are planning to bring a referendum to the voters October 14th. We will hold several "Town Meetings" presenting the needs of the district along with the details of the proposed project. I strongly encourage each and everyone of you to attend one or more of these meetings. There will also be other venues for presentations as well as printed material available. In addition, I hope to have as much information as possible posted to the district's web site.

This issue of the newsletter contains a lot of important information regarding the upcoming school year including bus routes. We hope that you enjoy every last minute of summer and are looking forward to a year of exciting new challenges and continuing to be partner in providing our children with the best education possible. Knowing how busy the year can be, please enjoy as much time as possible with friends and family creating memories to last a lifetime.

See you in September!

In Education,

Neil A. Rochelle