

## **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Our audit was presented and SCESC is on a solid financial footing. Our programs are breaking even and are sustaining efficient financial programming. Thank you to our auditing firm and representative Matt Wielkocz who came to present the 2023 - 2024 audit report. With one audit comment that has since been rectified, we are proud to state that the audit is complete.

The ERC Charities Gala was held on January 30th at Perona Farms. The Gala was a celebration of people and programs that Elite Retirement Company and SCESC partner with. The 2025 All Fore The Kids Golf Outing in May will once again be held to support ERC in their quest to continue their generous donations to SCESC. This year the ERC provided SCESC/NHA with a donation from the golf outing from last year and the Gala from this year in the sum of \$10,000. This money will be used to assist and support students with activities, equipment and or programming needs to make their lives a little bit easier.

### **Northern Hills Academy**

The students and staff at Northern Hills Academy have been resilient in facing the cold weather while maintaining their enthusiasm for learning and engaging in various activities. The students commenced the new year by establishing their goals for the upcoming year. Students studied Martin Luther King Jr. and his significant contributions to promoting acceptance, kindness, and inclusion for everyone. The topic of Presidents' Day was addressed prior to the holiday, and students gained insights into several of America's notable presidents, including George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. While this also allowed for open discussions of the inauguration.

Despite the cold weather, students are actively participating in gym class and sports club indoors. They engage in various sports and games that emphasize teamwork, graciously demonstrating both winning and losing while collaborating with their peers.

The students and staff at NHA are eagerly anticipating a Valentine's Day event that will celebrate love, friendship, dancing, and baking. A dance party will be held at NHA on February 13th.

On January 20th, staff engaged in a productive in-service professional development day that addressed key topics including classroom management, data collection, and the health and wellness of both staff and students. Participants reported positive feedback regarding the training and left with valuable insights applicable to their classrooms as well as their personal well-being.

### **Project Search**

The Superintendent held two very important meetings with state representatives regarding the financial support being given to Project Search interns this year. One meeting was held with the Sussex and Warren County Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services while the second meeting was held with the Developmental Disabilities office. Both meetings were very successful in securing the funding for the program and for the understanding of how the financial support can be applied to the SCESC, the districts participating and the interns themselves.

- The interns are progressing in their internships at both Newton and Hackettstown locations
- The supervisors, mentors have been great working with the interns assisting them in all aspects of the job required.
- 2nd round of teacher evaluations have been completed
- All Employment Planning Meetings for the interns have been completed

- The PS instructors continue to post pictures on the Atlantic Health website and staff have been commenting how great they look. The new Atlantic Health website has a feature that emphasizes the Internships through Project Search. You can view the page here: Project SEARCH Page: <https://www.atlantichealth.org/residencies-fellowships/project-search>
- Our interns in Newton are continuing serving the Rolling Resilience snack cart to the hospital staff
- Hackettstown Food Services, OT/PT and Environmental Services has really taken to the program and have our intern set up for success
- John O'Hara continue to work with the staff and President of AHS for Newton and Hackettstown and looking for new departments to support our program
- We have set up a meeting for February to talk with the Nursing Department to possibly have them work with our interns. This would open up great opportunities for future interns career options
- John O'Hara participated in the Morris/Sussex Transition partnership meeting and am looking to present at a meeting to promote our program
- The Warren Hills Child Study Team came to tour Hackettstown and were very impressed with the program. They are sending a student already for next year and may have a second student that they are thinking of sending to Project SEARCH
- Sparta Child Study Team toured Newton Project SEARCH with a student and parent and are working on filling out an application to send a student in September
- Our Newton instructor continues to work on and send out our monthly Newsletter each month with the "goings on" in Newton and Hackettstown Project SEARCH!
- John O'Hara continues to work with AHS to conduct training for mentors and any other interested hospital staff in Newton and Hackettstown to better equip them with information and techniques that they may utilize without interns

### **Non Public**

Second marking period progress reports have been completed and shared out with all of the parents of students within non public schools.

Non Public Teacher Cathy Kohansby led district staff in a Chair Yoga professional development activity on the district-wide Professional Development day. All staff reported that this activity was an essential part of our Wellness Initiative. Thank you Cathy!

### **Preschool Instructional Coaches**

Programming continues with the following districts- Hopatcong, Stanhope, Stillwater, Sandyston, Netcong, Oxford and Hampton. Transition with Ms. D'amico has been outstanding and the districts are happy with the programming. Continued professional development activities have kept the PIC's busy. Mrs. Dunnell finished up her PIC training by NJDOE and Ms. D'Amico is starting the PIRS training in February.

## **Sussex County ESC is hiring!!!**

Immediate Openings:

- School Social Worker
- Paraprofessionals
- ESY Special Education Teachers
- ESY Para-professionals

Please share with staff and/or your school community.

Please reach out to Andrea Romano, Superintendent for more information! [aromano@sussexesc.org](mailto:aromano@sussexesc.org)

**Next SCESC BOARD MEETING**

**MARCH 3rd, 2025 AT 7:00 PM**

**Northern Hills Academy, 10 Gail Court, Sparta NJ**

**REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**All Member Districts Required**

After Budget Presentation- Representative Assembly members may leave.

Representative Assembly members are appointed by your district or Superintendent may attend.

**REGULAR MEETING for BOARD will continue after the budget vote.**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Sussex County Educational Services Commission is a public agency that seeks to create partnerships with public and nonpublic schools and local communities. The Sussex County ESC develops and provides meaningful programs for young people with unique challenges and their families. Our goals are designed to shape our students into productive independent adults. Sussex County ESC provides opportunities for the professionals in our communities to stay current with their educational practices while supporting districts with both cost effective programs and a wide array of services.