

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

**Presentation of Donation to Sussex County ESC**

**Elite Retirement Consultants LLC/ ALL 4 KIDS Golf Outing: Nuri Gunes, Matt DeVito, Julia Dick**

**Northern Hills Academy Students: Harold Friedman and Jackson Roberts received the donation. A donation of \$5000 was made to Sussex County ESC / Northern Hills Academy on behalf of the Elite Retirement Consultants and their ALL 4 KIDS Golf Outing held in May 2021.**



**SCESC**

One of the biggest events since our last BOE meeting was the Job Alikes workshops held on January 18th. Five, One Hour sessions were held for a variety of job alike, TOSD, Speech, OT, Specials and PSD teachers, were held by Superintendent Romano. These meetings were initial meetings to introduce the concept of job alike and how utilizing technology can really bring staff throughout the county together to discuss best practices, strategies, interventions and resources. All in all about 75 staff members from multiple school districts attended. Some of the schools included Vernon, Hopatcong, Hardyston, Stanhope and Byram. Follow up has already occurred with certain groups.

Budget meetings and observations of staff have filled many days throughout the remainder of January and beginning of February. SCESC Administration have requested budget information from staff and are working collaboratively to build a sustainable and realistic budget. Observations of staff, both in SCESC and at two contracted districts, Hopatcong and Fredon have continued. Mid-year evaluations of all administrative staff and administrative assistants have been accomplished.

Superintendent Romano set up a table at Centenary University as a Job Fair looking for substitutes on behalf of the Sussex County Superintendent Roundtable. We have another date scheduled for February 24th and will be working with Sussex County Community College to set 2 dates for there. About 40 students at Centenary signed up to receive information. Great for a first attempt. Superintendent's from Newton, Kittatinny and Franklin joined Andrea at the table. In addition, ECS Gayle Carrick spent the entire day alongside us to encourage college students to sign up.

**Northern Hills Academy**

January was busy at NHA! Our January themes were: A Healthy You: Mindfulness, Yoga and Meditation, Exercise, Our Rights and Freedoms, Black Lives Matter, Winter Sports, and New Year's Resolutions and goals.

We started up our monthly Scouting for Life program with the Boy Scouts of America and were able to build bird feeders. Mr. Brian Wittman, Teacher, and Ms, Jenny Cook, Principal, are leading this program including a Den of multi-level cub scouts. We are Pack #700 in Sparta. The Pack Den is currently collaborating with Pack #49 from Jefferson Township for a Community Services Project that is helping senior citizens. NHA has also created a program in collaboration with Oak Ridge Martial Arts Academy, in Jefferson, that supports two classrooms at NHA in focusing their mind, eyes, and body. Mr. Brian's and Ms. Caitlin's classes enjoy working with Sensei Matt each month. Once again, the fantastic Roxey Ballet is working with NHA in

their Dance to Learn Program, which teaches a 16-week curriculum specifically designed for our population. Ms. Christina Holl has joined us as the teacher again alongside Mr. Teryn. Our students love participating in these extracurricular programs that are available at NHA.

Even though it has been a cold and snowy month, we have been able to build in some creative use of time for Professional Development both in-person and virtually. During our Professional Development In-Service Day, staff participated in county-wide 'Job Alike' sessions hosted by Ms. Andrea Romano, Superintendent. Other staff topics included: scheduling efficiency, Early Literacy Basic Skills program, Learning A-Z programming, SGO work, and Professional Learning Community SMART Goals. Ms. Jenny Cook worked with staff during our scheduled Delayed Opening on various topics including, Dynamic Learning Maps, State Assessments, Curriculum, and Parent Communication. Ms. Sarah McCarthy, Occupational Therapist, also turned-keyed a fantastic presentation on Visual Impairments in Students and Strategies to Use in the Classroom.

We are preparing for our 3rd Marking Period, our annual Parent-Teacher Conferences on February 10th and NHA's 100th Day of School. We look forward to a fantastic February!

### **Project Search**

Our program has really made amazing strides throughout the pandemic at Newton Medical Center. The interns who were either in close contact or tested positive with Covid kept moving throughout their internships through Zoom. One student and his family who were concerned about the spike in cases and was cautious about being present on site, worked with the Steering Committee to develop a successful plan of action for him to return on-site. The importance of this for all interns was to see how you might encounter an issue at work and how simple solutions can be worked through.

The interns continue to learn new aspects of their internship/department with supervisors and mentors. Our intern in Food Services has had added responsibilities in food prep already! We have never had an intern move up that fast in Food Services. Congratulations to him and the program!

As part of the curriculum, the interns have been discussing Financial Literacy. A review of the various taxes that are taken out of a paycheck, paper checks vs direct deposits and the importance of direct deposit-and the various other deductions taken out of a paycheck has been the focus. The interns are seeing the importance of keeping a realistic budget and how much bills can be each month. We are now discussing banking and the different banking institutions that are in their community and encouraging all interns to open up personal bank accounts.

We zoomed with 2 Project SEARCH graduates. The interns asked questions about "real" work life. The graduates shared that they loved getting a paycheck and we all discussed the aspects of their paychecks and how they spend their money.

Marketing efforts continue through emails, phone calls, zoom meetings and Virtual Open Houses. All of the dates are set from February through April, when the applications for the 2022-2023 program are due. John O'Hara has presented Project Search to the Sparta School District Child Study Team through Zoom. The presentation was successful with positive feedback and discussions will continue with 2 students being a possible match for the program. An on-site visit will be followed up on.

Another Virtual Open House with Sparta and Walkkill Valley Schools was presented. Sparta had an interested adult attend the program and follow up with DVRS will occur. The parents of the 2 students were not able to attend- we are rescheduling. Walkhill had one student and brother of the student attend. The Walkkill School District is interested in rescheduling for those that missed.

At Newton Hospital we have discussed 2 of the current Adult Interns with the HR department. They are interested in possibly hiring them at Atlantic Health. We have constructed resumes and the interns have filled out the online application and the HR representative talked about possible onboarding dates. As this is not ever a promise, the interns have made their mark in the program and utilized a very public job fair from the hospital as their launching pad.

As for professional development, Mr. O'Hara has attended a webinar with the Project SEARCH owners Erin and Susie discussing the program goals and initiatives. He is working to align SCESC's vision and strategic plan with these. In addition, Mr. O'Hara joined a Voc Fit Webinar discussing the various ways to document intern information. Mr. O'Hara also attended the SCESC Parent Training webinar. It was a very informative presentation from Catholic Charities in regards to programs for post 21 options and he attended a zoom through the Transition Network featuring topics on - Special Olympics- Transition company "Best Buddies" and the West Morris School District SLE program. Finally Mr. O'Hara is registering for the Project Search Conference in Baltimore in July 2022.

## FROM THE BOE PRESIDENT:

### Proposed 2021-2022 CSA Evaluation Timetable

1. February 7, 2022 to March 21st, - Prepare materials/evidence during the month of February for CSA Pre-Conference.
2. March 1<sup>st</sup> - March 7th - CSA Pre-Conference
3. March 1st to March 21st CSA completes District Goals Self-Assessment and Evidence for the Six Leadership Standards.
4. March 21st The CSA will submit her Self- Assessment and Evidence to NJSBA. This will trigger the availability of the CSA Evaluation tool to the SCESC Board of Directors (BOD)membership. Members of the BOD will work on completing the CSA Evaluation form online.
5. March 21<sup>st</sup>through April 20th the SCESC BOD members will work on completing the CSA Evaluation Tool and submit to NJSBA as they complete the task.
6. April 21st All evaluations submitted to NSBA. NSBA will compile all submitted evaluations.
7. April 26<sup>th</sup> - The Compiled CSA Valuation will be returned to the President of the BOD. The president will distribute the document to all members of the SCESC BOD.
8. May 2nd The compiled CA Evaluation Tool will be discussed at the BOD meeting. The BOD will outline/rough draft consensus responses for the final evaluation. BOD volunteers will develop the outline/rough draft response into a final written response.
9. May 17<sup>th</sup> - The final responses sent to the president of BOD. The responses will be incorporated into the document along with recommendations, commendations, and a summary. A final draft will be emailed to all members of the BOD prior to the June 7th meeting. Edits/changes made by June meeting.
10. June 6th BOD meeting - The document will be discussed with the CSA. Final document signed at the June 27th BOD meeting.

**MARCH 7, 2022 AT 6 PM BOARD OF DIRECTORS -  
DISTRICT GOAL SETTING  
7 PM REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING -  
ALL DISTRICTS MUST ATTEND**

#### **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.

## Sussex County ESC is hiring!!!



### Immediate Openings:

- School Social Worker with experience with ABA/BCBA. Must be able to work with a variety of student populations.
- Teacher of Students with Disabilities
- Paraprofessionals
- Part-time Custodian

Please share with staff and/or community

Please reach out to Andrea Romano, Superintendent for more information!