

## Superintendent's Report October 15, 2018

It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of the first quarter of the year already. The start of the year has been outstanding and has provided momentum that will grow throughout the year! During a recent District Improvement Team Meeting I was encouraged by listening the successes our teachers shared. Our District continues to meet our value to offer a wide variety of academic, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities as we continue to grow as a more diverse and inclusive learning community. Staunton Elementary has started a positive behavior interventions and supports program recognizing and celebrating positive actions from our students and providing supports when students need help and direction. Staunton Junior High School has added elective courses such as agriculture and coding that are peaking student's interests. Also at SJH the Rti program is having an immediate impact with students who need more intensive academic support. As part of service learning SJH students are helping K-1 students during lunch in the cafeteria. At 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades the 1:1 chromebook program is off to an excellent start with students moving us forward. SHS students are also involved in a peer tutoring program to assist SJH students who need additional academic help. These are just a few of the many positive stories coming out of our schools and I am excited to share many more great things to come!

### **Budget/Finance**

The FY20 budget development process is underway at ISBE with opportunity for input from stake holders available in October and November. As Superintendent Smith has clearly stated, this is *our* public education budget. This is our opportunity to share what funding our students, schools, and communities need. While the State is to provide the primary source of funding for our public schools, we know that in FY17 the state contributed approximately one-third of school district's revenues. Evidence Based Funding has been a welcome relief and has made an immediate impact on Staunton Schools as I have reported in a recent [news story](#). But the gains took our schools only 2% farther toward adequacy, from 58% to 60%. With the great impact just 2% has made think about the learning opportunities for young people with full funding. Currently the State contributes \$350 million per year toward EBF. While this is a much needed first step, our funding is already behind as it will take \$600 million per year to meet our statewide funding goal.

I do plan to submit written and possibly oral testimony but this testimony is not limited to superintendents. All stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to the discussion Individuals can submit funding requests by completing the FY2020 Budget Request Form available at [www.isbe.net/budget](http://www.isbe.net/budget) and emailing it to [ISBEFY20@isbe.net](mailto:ISBEFY20@isbe.net). The open hearings provide an opportunity for educators, advocates, and community members to share their requests in person. ISBE asks that those who testify complete the form. The open hearings will be held in:

- Springfield – Wednesday, Oct. 17
- Mount Vernon – Wednesday, Oct. 24
- Chicago – Friday, Nov. 16.

### **Professional Development**

The District school improvement day on 10/5 was primarily focused on safety and response. Trainers from St. John's hospital were brought in to train staff in "Stop the Bleed" trauma response. This training shows educators how to stop life threatening trauma and bleeds until first responders arrive on scene. The District will be placing Stop the Bleed kits next to AED devices and tourniquets within first aid bags/kits.

Primary teachers were trained in OT/PT interventions and referrals.

On Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> the District Teacher Institute Day was held as a part of the ROE #40 Institute. All educators from within the region gathered at Jerseyville High School for a day of professional learning. The keynote speaker, Dr. Jesse W. Jackson III provided a good message on how schools and teachers can be responsive to differing cultures, poverty, while maintaining high expectations. The remainder of the day was filled with various breakout sessions where teachers could choose the area of most interest and need.