

Our Path to First Choice No. 14
2019/20

Everyone,

Here's Our Path note. Thank you for all you do for our students!

Our Path Topic

The 2019/20 WASD Strategic Plan includes two objectives—"To be *First Choice* for Students" and "To be *First Choice* for Parents and Community and continuously improving the District culture and climate." One initiative that WASD has worked to implement "Develop a plan for Social Emotional Learning that addresses trauma-sensitivity and needs of all students."

The plan included two initiatives. One, the establishment of an Inspire Classroom at the elementary school level, and one at the middle school level. The intention of both these classes is to help students who have had some sort of trauma in their lives—as demonstrated in the behaviors occurring every day in school. The second, a plan for training our staff on trauma and its impact on students who have dealt with it in their lives.

The Inspire Classrooms are off and running this year. However, as any new program, there have been issues to work through, and will likely continue to revisit and re-evaluate the success of the program in order to maintain quality. Nevertheless, it has had a positive impact on our schools. The WASD, recently, received a \$14,000 grant toward Trauma-based training for staff. Although PDE has mandated such training for school staff, board members are also required to have such training.

One final note. Another WASD strategic objective for 2019/20 is "To balance fiscal needs with WASD's strategic objectives." Although it is not one of our initiatives for 2019/20, the purpose of this objective is to be able to fund those initiatives and action plans implemented for achieving our strategic objectives. The school board has invested over \$250,000 in these trauma-based classrooms in order to improve the climate and culture of the school district. These classes are improving the educational environment for all students. That is quite a commitment.

WASD will continue to make progress in Our Path to *First Choice* by reinventing ourselves to meet the needs of our students and the demands of society.

Board Information and Policy Updates

- Next School Board Meetings.

- o December 3rd is the Reorganization Meeting, 7PM at the Waynesboro Area Middle School.
- o December 3rd immediately following the Reorganization Meeting, there will be a Public Presentation on the Proposed Redistricting of Elementary School Attendance Zones.
- o December 9th at 2 PM, the Policy Committee will meet.
- o December 17th at 7 PM is a Board Meeting.

You may check out District policies by going to this site: <https://www.boarddocs.com/pa/wayn/Board.nsf/Public>

A Good Article to Reducing Stress in the Classroom

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2019/11/15/10-simple-steps-for-reducing-toxic-stress.html>

Reminder about Early Dismissal

Wednesday, November 27th, is an early dismissal for students. This year, all employees are excused after students have cleared the building and your assigned duties are completed. Hourly employees should make sure usual hours are noted on your time sheet in order to be paid for the complete scheduled day.

Renfrew Christmas on the Farm

Christmas on the Farm at Renfrew held Dec 6-8. They are including a warming circle with a fire pit this year, and hope to have some volunteers read Christmas stories a few times during the event. The event hours vary each day, so if you can, email Bobbi Blubaugh if interested. She will set up a schedule for the volunteers. Thank you for your consideration to help this community event!

bblubaugh9@comcast.net

717-377-6665

The New WellSpan Clinic

Located at the high school in the new Early Learning Center, the WellSpan Walk-In Clinic.

Hours starting October 28th:

- **Monday and Friday- 7am to 11am.**
- **Thursday- 3pm to 6pm**

Doing Things for the Community

Lennis and Leesa Barnes donated this year's town Christmas tree on the square. Leesa is a cook at Fairview Elementary School. Every time you see the tree think of WASD's Lessa Barnes!!

Congratulations!

A big congratulations to Sharon McIlquham and Emily Nystrom for being recognized at Shippensburg University on November 12th as WASD's Teachers of the Year. Photo attached.

A Challenge for You

Do school members have any required training for the position?

Piece of the Puzzle

This week's Piece of the Puzzle is Deb Forrester. Deb Forrester, the WASD registrar is affectionately known as the "face of the Waynesboro Area School District". Since Clayton Avenue assumed the task of centralized enrollment in 2018, Deb has successfully met the daily challenges of greeting, processing, and problem solving with families who are registering their children in the district. Despite some very "interesting" dilemmas, Deb is ALWAYS pleasant and accommodating and provides a warm welcome to WASD. In addition, Deb has been charged with managing the Clayton Avenue/ District webpage. Deb's thoughtful and proactive approaches have created webpages with up to date information to keep our families and community informed.

*Challenge Answer (Important to Know)

Prior to recent legislation, school board members had no requirements for training. After taking the oath of office, board members may have received an "onboarding" by the superintendent, or attended a PA School Board Association's workshop. Today, newly elected and appointed school board directors must successfully complete 5 hours of training. Re-elected school board directors must successfully complete 3 hours of training. The trainings can be done online or in-person learning through an approved provider.

Final Thoughts

· *Remember: Everyone in the classroom has a story that leads to misbehavior or defiance. 9 times out of 10, the story behind the misbehavior won't make you angry. It will break your heart.—Annette Breaux, Education Author and Speaker.*

· *The strongest oak of the forest is not the one that is protected from the storm and hidden from the sun. It's the one that stands in the open where it is compelled to struggle for its existence against the winds and rains and the scorching sun.—Napoleon Hill, businessman and self-help author.*

· *This ability to exist in pieces is what some adults call resilience. And I suppose in some way it is a kind of resilience, a horrible resilience that makes adults believe children forget trauma.—Lynda Barry, cartoonist.*

- *The most important thing that parents need to understand is that the brain of their child will become exactly what the child was exposed to that is the beauty of the human brain . It is the mirror to the child's developmental experience.*—Bruce D. Perry, The Trauma Therapist Project Leader.
- *Childhood trauma is not necessarily a prophecy of doom, because some children are resilient or because later experiences help to restore mental health.*—Richard Bentall, professor of clinical psychology.
- *Trauma is a fact of life. It does not, however, have to be a life sentence.*—Peter A. Levine, founder of Somatic Experiencing (psychologist).
- *Trauma is ubiquitous. In the general population, 67% of us have experienced at least one Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE).. In people of color, that is more likely to be 83%. Also,, 12.6% of the population had 4 or more ACEs.*—ACEs Study (a partnership between Kaiser Permanente San Diego and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

This week is National Education Week. It is a week America recognizes our public schools and those who go above and beyond to educate the children of this country. Thank you to everyone for all you do for our students and community!

There will be **no Path Note on December 4th!** Enjoy the rest of your week!

Tod

