



Superintendent's Report October 7, 2021

Our faculty and staff participated in professional development this past Monday, October 4, 2021. Former NVCC Director, Bob Price, led teachers in a morning workshop on using student assessment data to guide instruction. Dr. Price will be continuing this work through the fall by meeting with grade level teams to continue the professional learning about how best to use assessments for academic progress for all students. The grade level teams will be taking a deeper dive into the Linkit! start-of-year assessment data. In the afternoon session on October 4, 2021, teachers attended professional development sessions by school. The sessions included Character Strong training; planning for delivery of Start Strong Assessments; planning lessons for observances of Global Diversity Awareness Month (October 2021) and National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month (November 2021) which are part of our District Diversity Council Action Plan for this year. We thank the Board of Education for their support of the professional development of our faculty and staff.

On tonight's agenda there is a motion to approve a Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan. This is a new requirement, legislated in N.J.S.A 18A:7F-9(c), which will require school districts to annually submit a plan for virtual or remote instruction that would be implemented during a school closure lasting more than three days due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive by an appropriate health agency. The approved plan would allow a day of virtual or remote instruction to be considered a day of school attendance for the purposes of meeting the 180-day requirement. The NJDOE provided guidance that the plan must include:

- how virtual instruction would be provided to students who need a device or Internet access;
- how lunch would be provided to students who are eligible for free/reduced lunch;
- the required length of a virtual or remote instruction day.

The plan must also be posted to the district website. The administrative team created our plan using the protocols we already have in place for virtual instruction. The plan was then reviewed by the Closter Education Association leadership, who agreed that the plan was acceptable. The plan is now being submitted to the Board of Education and, once approved, it will be submitted to the Bergen County Office of the New Jersey Department of Education for review and approval.

The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act requires that the week beginning with the first Monday in October of each year be designated as the *Week of Respect* in New Jersey. This week our students and staff have been observing the *Week of Respect* by learning ways to prevent bullying with special morning announcements, wearing their favorite team jerseys to team up against bullying, practicing respectful manners, Wellness Wednesday lessons, and learning the ICARE cheer at Hillside. We will continue being respectful all year-long and pledge to avoid bullying behavior.

Vincent Mc Hale