

# DOTHAN CITY SCHOOLS

## Superintendent's Report February 2019

I have been meeting with teachers and staff. I am going to schools and sitting in the media center or conference room. Teachers and staff come in together or sometimes alone. I have answered many questions or sometimes just listen. Many have come in to introduce themselves and some have come in to say they are excited for the change or say, "Thank you". It is a pleasure to sit with teachers and staff. I am making a list of questions and comments and will share with all when I get finished. It is time-consuming. So far, I have met with Carver, Beverlye, Hidden Lakes and the two Girards. I should be able to make the rounds completely in a month.

I have met with community and business members as well. In the last month, I have met with about 4 additional groups of people; each with 15 or 20 people. I also attended the Legislative Breakfast hosted by the Chamber and met with some of our legislators, city and county leaders. On Monday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, we had the Dothan City Schools Showcase. It was well-attended and the schools/students were excellent in their performances and demonstrations. Thanks to our curriculum people; Lori and Nikki and to the Education Foundation for hosting the event. It was at the Civic Center. I also met with the Retired Teacher Association for Dothan City and Houston County. Last Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, the City Commission did a Resolution for Public Education.

At the end of this month, I will be attending a Superintendent's Training in Montgomery. At the beginning of March, I am scheduled for attendance at the Legislative Conference. As per the requirements for the Superintendents of Alabama- new Superintendents must attend all conferences (Summer, Fall and Legislative) as well as attend a 2 day new Superintendent's Training as well as three additional 2 day each training sessions. At this time, I will have completed the conferences, the new Superintendent's Orientation (2 day) and one of the trainings.

Scott Faulk is working on the calendar for next year. He has met in committees and is taking a poll. The calendar has 180 days for students to attend school and 187 days for teachers. For next year, we are thinking of starting school a little later by one week. This will allow a bit more time to complete as much of the construction changes for the schools as possible before school begins. Scott will have the draft calendar for you to review.

Professional development opportunities for teachers are being finalized for this spring and summer. Teachers at the Junior and Senior HS will go to A+ training. Teachers in the Expeditionary Learning Schools will have an on-site introductory training and then start visiting other sites. IB Training will be "on site" but also more conference settings. Applications to be IB schools will be prepared and submitted.

Principals have sent their letters or postcards to the families in their schools. I have heard from teachers that their children were excited to receive the letters and postcards. Highlands is planning an event for parents and children. I will ask for copies of the postcards and letters so you can see them.

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This month, you will see Spotlights for students who participated in the Science Fair, held at the Mall. Congratulations to these students for their hard work! We will also honor the Teachers of the Year and please know that there will be an event to honor the teachers in early April. We also want to congratulate and say good-bye to our Girard Elementary Principal, Ms. Glenda Sanders. Ms. Sanders is retiring after over 40 years. We are grateful for her commitment to the students.

This month, early February, the teachers and certified staff received their notices for transfer for next year. As you know, we asked teachers and staff to select their first, second and third choices for placement for next year. After reviewing all the selections and working with the Principals, we were able to honor 80 to 85% of the requests for placement.

Even though these placements are for the next school year, and we will not have a feeder pattern, we are still honoring the Students First (Alabama Law) regarding transfers of tenured teachers and staff. The letters indicate that this is the recommended placement for next year. No placement can be final until the Board officially votes. Teachers who wish to address the Board about their placement will be given the opportunity prior to a vote. I will bring the recommendations to you for finalization at the March Board meeting. While we can't make everyone perfectly happy, we have tried to honor requests and give people placement. Next month, the work will begin on the support or non-certificated staff.

You have had the draft of the Board Policy revisions for the last two months. We have all been very busy. I will be asking you to approve the revisions at this February Board meeting.

Please check with Ms. Brandon about your reservations for your Conference on legislative matters. I am sorry that I can't be with you but I need to attend the week prior to your conference.

Once again, thank you for your support and for all the work you put into this servant-leadership position!