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August 24, 2022

Superintendent's 90-Day Plan Update

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that you had a wonderful summer and had the opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends. I am incredibly excited about the 2022-2023 school year. I look forward to engaging in a collaborative partnership to prepare our students for college and career readiness.

Friday, August 26, 2022, will mark the completion of my eighth week as Superintendent of Schools. It has been an amazing two months. I quickly realized that the district has staff members who display incredible dedication and commitment. They love what they do and work tirelessly on behalf of your children and our students.

This summer, a significant amount of work has been completed to ensure that our students are presented with a standards-based and rigorous instructional program. We have met the state mandate to align our curriculum with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Our curriculum includes resources and materials of high interest. The resources include a diverse perspective representing our student population and include embedded interventions for all students. Additionally, the curriculum will allow teachers to create relevant lessons that include student-centered learning opportunities grounded in critical thinking skills to help students solve complex, real-life problems. Finally, we will continue to work to include mandated assessments in our curriculum that best measure student achievement.

My 90-Day Plan can be assessed using the following link:

<https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000237/Centricity/Domain/7352/Voorhees%20Public%20Schools%20Dr.%20Hackett%2090%20Day%20Plan.pdf>.

A summary of the work that has been done over the last two months regarding the 90-Day Plan is as follows:

- I conducted Listen and Learn meetings with all administrators with the exception of one assistant principal who I will meet with next week.
- I conducted Listen and Learn meetings with representatives from the food service, transportation, and registration departments.
- I met with the Police Chief to discuss the partnership between the police department and the district. I also met with the Police Captain who works with the district regarding

safety measures. The captain will meet with staff members in each school to review lockdown safety measures.

- I met with the Fire Chief and discussed the partnership between the school district and the fire department.
- I met with the Superintendent of the Eastern Camden County Regional School District. We agreed to meet regularly to discuss vertical articulation between grades 8 and 9.
- I participated in a panel to conduct interviews for an Assistant Principal at Voorhees Middle School. We have identified an experienced candidate with a strong background in mathematics.
- I conducted Listen and Learn meetings with the Presidents of the Voorhees Administrators' Association and Voorhees Education Association.
- I toured all district buildings to view building and grounds projects (Kresson extension, renovation of Osage media center, installation of new floors, renovation of classrooms, and installation of new lockers at the middle school).
- I worked with a committee to complete a Preschool Expansion Grant (PEA) application. We are currently awaiting notification of the status of our application.
- I participated in the annual Administrator's Retreat on July 18th, 19th, and 20th. The retreat was grounded in collaboration, transparency, and goal setting.

As I conclude my first eight weeks as Superintendent, I have recognized many successes in the district. I have indicated a non-exhaustive list of these successes below.

1. All the staff members who I have spoken with have a teamwork mentality and a targeted focus on improving student achievement.
2. All district partners (police, fire, Theater Company) work tirelessly and collaboratively with the district.
3. The average evaluation scores of teaching staff members show that they are effective and highly effective across all 22 evaluation components.
4. Everyone I have spoken with has shared their wonderful experiences while working in the district.
5. The district has excellent financial reports.
6. The district has an excellent Buildings and Grounds department.
7. The district has a comprehensive Technology Plan.
8. There is a comprehensive District Safety Plan, and the safety mechanisms in the district are aligned with best practices.
9. There is a strong focus on the social and emotional needs of students.

I have identified some opportunities for success based on a review of district data in coordination with my Listen and Learn meetings. These opportunities are listed below.

1. More intense focus on small group instruction/differentiation.
2. More intense focus on writing in the elementary grades and the implementation of writing benchmark assessments.

In closing, I look forward to working with you as we provide your children with an exceptional educational experience. As a community, we will serve as a village to make our school district a place of excellence and opportunity for all. Please enjoy the remainder of your summer.

Sincerely,

Dr. Neely Hackett

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