

Superintendent Update from Dr. Wagner Marseille | June 17, 2022

Dear Staff and Families,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. It has been three weeks since my last communication, and there are so many celebratory activities and events that have taken place in the meantime. June indeed gives us bragging rights as it is the month of pride and celebration. Wrapping up the school year comes with its own challenges that, on a personal level, disrupted my established routines.

LGBTQIA+ Pride Month, Flag Day, Juneteenth, and Father's Day are some of the acknowledgments and recognitions this month, but our biggest celebration is our end-of-year traditions as we close out the school year.

On June 10, we honored the class of 2022 at Neumann College, where we celebrated and said goodbye to 322 Haven seniors. Today we applauded our 8th-grade students during the "Bridge Crossing" ceremony as they bid farewell to their middle school years to officially become the high school class of 2026. Last, but not least, our fifth-grade students participated in their moving-up ceremonies on June 16, and they were very excited to become middle schoolers. Indeed, June is the time of pride and celebration!

The expression "In the blink of an eye" sums up the month of June and is also fitting for this entire calendar school year. Now that we are at the finish line, I cannot believe how fast the race came to an end. It seems like yesterday when I came to the district and filled out the registration packet information for Cheyanne to enter sixth grade at SHMS. I "blinked"; Now she is officially a seventh-grader. Where did the time go? Through all the excitement, the lows, and the highs, I have come to the realization that what really matters is that we experienced this time together and we are so much better for it. What matters is the time we have with each other because it goes by "in the blink of an eye." I spoke with a parent last night who shared her story of "Time at WSSD" that echoed exactly this sentiment and told me how her children's years at WSSD flew by.

As we end the 2022-2023 school year and look forward to the summer months, we are also preparing and gearing up for the challenges and opportunities for the 2023-2024 year. We have gathered a plethora of rich information from our Equity Audit, Curriculum Audit, and our soon-to-be-released Communications Audit.

These three seminal documents, along with other data points we have collected, will launch our long-term vision and strategic planning for the Fall of 2022. Please review our presentations of the Equity Audit findings and the preliminary Curriculum Audit results presented at the Educational Affairs Committee held on June 14. We will share the comprehensive Curriculum Audit report in the fall. In addition, here is the April 6 Educational Affairs presentation with additional district data.

Though today is the last day for students, our staff will be with us for an additional two days to close out their school year on June 22. I cannot say enough how appreciative and proud I am of our faculty and staff. I am extremely excited for next year and all that I know we will accomplish together.

Our last Regular Board meeting for this school year is scheduled for June 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the SHMS library. After that, our next Regular Board Meeting will be on August 22. Please note that there is no meeting in July.

At the June 27th meeting, we will present our 2022-2023 final budget. At the Facilities and Finance meeting on June 15, I proposed some revisions to our proposed final budget that would shift our original tax increase of 2.4% to 3.06%. This is due to the number of personnel needed in grades K-12 to support and enhance our safety and security efforts.

We have a number of gaps within our safety protocols that we need to address, and, as a result, I will be asking for a School Safety and Security Coordinator, as per PA school code (School Safety and Security Committee) and the amendments to Act 19 of 2019. This is a position that should have been filled many years ago but was not. In addition, I have asked for a number of full- and part-time campus safety and security aides who will be led by the School Safety and Security Coordinator. Our Safety and Security aides will play a vital role in maintaining a healthy school climate and culture as they will fulfill a myriad of duties such as, but not limited to:

1. Support in the monitoring arrival/dismissal and support traffic patterns on district property
2. Support and monitor the implementation of district and building safety plans
3. Monitor school hallways, locker rooms, restrooms, athletic facilities, recess, lunch, after-school programs, etc.
4. Monitor students' behavior and prevent violations of student code of conduct

5. Support building administration in investigating disciplinary incidences
6. Support non-employee visitors upon arrival to campus and provide guidance
7. Support in the implementation of PBIS (be safe, be respectful, be kind)
8. Support staff with safety incidences or violations of the school code of conduct
9. Support with fire and emergency drills
10. Support in creating a welcoming, respectful and inclusive environment by building positive relationships with students, staff, and the community.

These individuals are not School Resource Officers and are not armed guards. They will serve as an additional set of eyes and helping hands for our teachers and administrators in the appropriate supervision of our campus/students and adherence to our building and district safety plans. They will alleviate some of the pressure we have seen in the monitoring of students at arrival/dismissal, lunch rooms, recess, hallways, and other activities that bring students and staff together, including evening functions. In many cases, we have been using instructional aides in this capacity when they are best served in the classroom, supporting teachers and students.

I understand the tax burden this puts on this community as I, too, am a resident, and I understand there are other needs that I wish I could fill simultaneously. However, safety and security continue to be at the top of my mind, not just now but ever since my arrival to the district. Now is the time to implement this.

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- June 18 - Media Youth Council Juneteenth Celebration, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. in Heritage Park, Media
- June 22 - Policy Committee meeting, 7 p.m. in Room B-226 at SHMS
- June 27 - Regular School Board meeting, 7 p.m. in the SHMS library

Have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to seeing you all again in September. If you are around this summer and would like to schedule a meeting with me, please reach out to my executive assistant.

Stay safe,

Wagner Marseille, Ed.D.