

SCSD News



February 2017

News from the Superintendent...

The district is beginning the budgeting process for the 2017/2018 fiscal year. Unfortunately, the timing of the process coincides with an announcement that the state is facing a \$600,000,000 budget deficit. Such a deficit may result in a stagnant Basic Education Subsidy, the largest single source of school district operating revenue. The budget deficit isn't the only news coming from Harrisburg. Senate Bill #76 is causing a stir across the state. This bill would eliminate property taxes in the Commonwealth and fund schools through a combination of an increased personal income tax and an increased sales tax. Schools with debt would be able to continue a property tax only to eliminate the debt. SCSD is one of eight school districts out of the 500 in the state to be debt free in terms of bond obligations and loans. No property tax sounds like a win for Pennsylvanians, but in border counties where non-residents may be paying a large portion of the property tax bill, like in Susquehanna County, is it still a win? The entire burden of taxes shifts from residents and non-residents to an income tax paid solely by state residents and a sales tax paid mainly by state residents.

The district is planning two capital improvement projects for the summer months of 2017. A recoating of 10,000 square feet of the high school roof and a second new high school boiler are planned. The estimated costs of these two projects will be around \$150,000, but only the roof project will be included in the 2017/2018 budget as the estimated \$50,000 for the high school boiler already exists in the district's Capital Improvement Account. While state revenue may be unchanged for 2017/2018, the district has already passed its annual resolution guaranteeing not to exceed the property tax increases set forth by Act 1

News from the High School Principal...

With the start of Quarter 3 upon us here at SCSD, we have already started thinking and planning for the 2017-18 school-year. At our recent Honors Assemblies, our Guidance Department met with each grade level to discuss scheduling options, elective choices, new course offerings, and highlights of Dual Enrollment Courses. This year, we were able to offer students 27 potential college credits. Many of our recent graduates have had the opportunity to earn a Bachelor's Degree sooner and at a much lower cost.

New for Quarter 3 in the High School is the implementation of an additional Activity Period that hosts Keystone/PSSA Remediation courses and 20 activities/clubs. Each club will once again work towards the development of a service project scheduled for May 5th.

The Coaches VS. Cancer Alumni Game on January 27th raised over \$3000 for the American Cancer Society. After discussing the possibility of a local donation with the organizers of the Coaches vs. Cancer program and the small group of individuals here who assisted in the organization of the alumni game fundraiser, we are proud to announce that some of that money will be donated to our dear friend and colleague, Joanna Soden as she continues her own fight. JoAnna, as we knew she would, has attacked her situation with strength and grace. From all of us here at SCSD, we want to wish JoAnna a happy, healthy Spring.

A special thank you to Ken Goody of the Zimmermann Foundation for their gracious donation of \$3000 to our Student Mentor Program. The Student Mentor Program is currently funded by the Saber Spirit Store. Our intention is to purchase items for the store that will interest both students and parents.

Congratulations to the Girls Varsity Basketball Team and coaches Errol Mannick and Gina Baker for defeating Forest City and taking the Lackawanna League Division IV Girls Basketball Title. Go Lady Sabers!!!

Dates to Remember

Vo-Tech Field Trip	February 2nd
Girls Varsity Senior Recognition Game	February 9th
Boys Varsity Senior Recognition Game	February 16th
5th and 6th Grade Formal Dance	February 25th
WNEP Senior Field Trip	February 28th

High School PSSA/ Keystone Testing Dates

ELA PSSA	April 4th-7th
Math PSSA	April 25th-27th
Science PSSA	May 2nd-3rd
Literature	May 15th-16th
Algebra	May 17th-18th
Biology	May 22nd-23rd

News from the Supervisor of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment...

In July of 2016, Section 8 of Act 86 amended Section 1605 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code allowing high school students to apply one credit of computer science or information technology coursework towards a math or science high school graduation credit requirement. Therefore, beginning with this year's graduating class, any student that successfully completes a computer science and/or information technology course in grades nine through twelve will be able to satisfy a mathematics or science credit requirement towards graduation.

Why did this occur? The main reason for the change is due to the demand for these skills in today's job market and in the future job market. Nearly, two-thirds of all projected new jobs are in the STEM fields. This makes computer science one of the most sought after skills by employers. *Currently, Pennsylvania has 20,192 open computer science jobs.*

Susquehanna Community has been preparing students for STEM careers over the past five years. We currently offer three Project Lead the Way™ courses in grades 9-12 and every seventh and eighth grade student is exposed to Project Lead the Way's Gateway Program™. Next school year, the district will be adding a new course at the high school level called Computer Principles. This will be an elective for students in grades 9-12. Additionally, the district will be offering another computer science elective. Currently, we have six students enrolled in our initial computer science course. Plans for the future include adding another computer science elective, which will give students the opportunity to take three computer science electives as well as three Project Lead the Way™ electives.

Section 8 of Act 86 does not have a great impact on our student population. However, it will provide students with the option of applying one of the computer science credits in place of mathematics or science credits if they need those credits to graduate. Most students looking to further their education at the college level will still want to take four mathematics and four science credits while in grades 9-12.

This image shows a blank sheet of lined paper. The paper is white and features a solid blue border. Two horizontal dashed lines are drawn across the page, dividing it into three sections. The top section is the largest, followed by a smaller middle section, and a bottom section. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the entire width of the page.