



Mission/Vision Statement

The mission of Ansonia Public Schools is to provide a learning environment that challenges and motivates all students to attain high standards of achievement and reach maximum individual potential. In a partnership of mutual accountability with our community, parents, board of education and staff, we will prepare all students to become successful lifelong learners in an ever-changing, technological and culturally diverse global society.

Notes from the Desk of the Superintendent

The month of March opened with state standardized testing of students in Grades 3-8 (Connecticut Mastery Test) and in Grade 10 (Connecticut Academic Performance Test). We scheduled testing over the first three weeks of March, including make-ups. Other activities that took place throughout the month included:

In recognition of "Read Across America," I read a Dr. Seuss book to Pre-K students in our School Readiness Program on March 2.

The Ansonia Board of Education, at its meeting on March 3, approved the calendar for the 2010-2011 year. We included the calendar in our March 2010 newsletter, *The Ansonian*. School will open on Aug. 31, 2010 and end on June 14, 2011. Please check our website for all updates.

On March 4, Diane Conway and I worked with our administrators in an efficacy training led by Patrick Flynn. We began setting our goals for 2010-2011, as aligned to the District Improvement Plan. We are focusing on adult actions and student outcomes.

On March 8, we presented our proposed budget for 2010-2011 to the Ansonia Board of Apportionment and Taxation in City Hall. I was joined by Board of Education President John Lawlor and Business Administrator James Gaskins as we outlined our anticipated expenses and school improvement plans. Without the monetary support from the Board of Apportionment and Taxation, we will not be able to continue to move forward.

We shared information about our school improvement work at Community Forums, which began in February and concluded on March 25, and in "An Open Letter to Parents and Citizens of Ansonia," which we published in the March edition of *The Ansonian*, our school district newsletter. We are working to transform our schools in order to meet the objective of universal success for all students, and we need the help of the Ansonia community to do so.

On March 17, Diane Conway and I met with Patrick Flynn about how we can more closely align our personal goals to the goals of the district. We will be holding a summer meeting with our administrators and Board of Education members to finalize our work.

Last month, I wrote about a change in our Student

Information System. With the Board of Education's approval, we are moving ahead with a plan to implement a new SIS for the 2010-2011 year. We met on March 17 with Tyler Education about the new SIS and established the groundwork for the implementation. A three-person committee was put in charge of the project: Ann Turner, technology coordinator; Lyn Le, Student Database Manager; and Dom Golia, Food Services Director. They provide weekly updates to TEMS via telephone conference calls and will be scheduling meetings with school system staff in the coming weeks and months.

Eighteen juniors and four seniors were inducted into the Ansonia High chapter of the National Honor Society in an impressive candlelight ceremony on March 24. The program was followed by a wonderful dinner for students and their families.

Ansonia High School held its annual Drama Production on March 25 and 26. Kudos to the students and the fine performance they gave in "Twelve Angry Men." We have many talented students—bravo!

Our final full day of Professional Development was held on March 30. Our professional staff participated in "Summarizing and Note Taking," the third in our series of research-based teaching strategies proven to increase learning across disciplines and grade levels.

We closed the month on March 31 with a Stakeholder's Meeting for the Connecticut Race to the Top grant application. The state is planning for the second submission for these highly competitive federal funds, which were approved for just two states in the first round of applications. The new application is due June 1, with the Memorandum of Understandings from school districts due mid-April. Our day focused on restructuring priorities based on analysis of the finalists and winners' applications and the reviewer's critiques of Connecticut's application.

Sincerely,

Carol Merlone, *Ansonia Superintendent of Schools*