



October 29, 2007

OSSE Team,

It was great seeing everyone at last week's All Hands! We went from having no microphone to one that worked half of the time, but we're getting there.

If you weren't at Hardy Middle School last Wednesday, you missed out on a wonderful celebration for National School Lunch Week! Guests were welcomed by the upbeat music of the Hardy MS jazz band and gracious student greeters. The event began with the Idea PCS Color Guard with a presentation of the flags and the singing of the National Anthem which was appropriate for this year's theme "Vote for School Lunch"! The focus of the program were the five schools (Hardy MS, Webb/Wheatley ES, Potomac Lighthouse PCS, ABC PCS, Howard Road PCS) who represented the five candidates; Biff Burger, Patti Mac n Cheese, Yumi Rice Bowl, Jesse Wrap and Pippa Potato. Schools showcased their candidates and voted for their favorite lunch meal. The winner (by 1 vote!) was Jesse Wrap for the District of Columbia. The winner for the nation was Biff Burger. Following the program, Nutrition Services served a healthy and nutritious lunch to nearly 500 students. Kudos to Nutrition Services and the School Programs Team for a job well done!

I am happy to report that the suggestion box at DCPS has been found. A very special thank you (and reward) is in order to our very own super sleuth team of Linda Butler and Alan Patterson. Thanks, gumshoes!

I recently had the opportunity to tour the facility at 51 N St NE where part of the OSSE will reside. The build out is continuing as planned and I think you will be pleased with the results when the time comes to move into your new offices. Logistical information for the move will be coming soon.

Reading is Fundamental, the nation's oldest and largest children's and family literacy organization, kicked off its Score With Reading event by holding the first of three annual reading motivational and book distribution events for 16,000 D.C. school children at 53 schools during this week, beginning with today's public kickoff event at Slowe Elementary. At each event, students can select new books of their choice to keep and read for fun. The students also participate in a variety of motivational activities themed around "score with reading." The Washington Redskins, through their Redskins Read program, are partnering with RIF to promote reading among D.C. school children. The Redskins Foundation has donated prizes for a reading challenge taking place during the month of November. In addition, Redskins running back and return specialist Rock Cartwright participated as a guest speaker and reader at the Slowe event this morning.

Yesterday marked the official opening of the State Board of Education offices at 441 4th St NW, Suite 723 North. There, you will also find Ms. Beverley Wheeler, the new Executive Secretariat for the Board. Beverley Wheeler is coming over from DC Councilmember Phil Mendelson's office, where she was the Chief of Staff. Before joining Councilmember Mendelson's office, Dr. Wheeler served as President of The Pendleton Group, a small woman-owned consulting firm which has provided community group facilitation services for the DC Public Schools through the

DC Educational Compact and a strategic review of literacy programs for the DC State Education Office.

We also have some new members who are joining the OSSE family. Ms. Joy Roberson (Joy.Roberson@dc.gov) is Deputy Superintendent Kim Statham's new assistant while Ms. Lisa S. Davis (LisaS.Davis@dc.gov) has signed on as the new assistant for Deputy Superintendent John Parham. Although they've been working for OSSE's Office of Public Charter School Financing and Support for a few weeks now, Ms. Bianca Fagin (Bianca.Fagin@dc.gov) and Ms. Vanessa Miranda (Vanessa.Miranda@dc.gov) were not properly introduced at the last All Hands. Please join me in welcoming these four very talented ladies into the OSSE Posse!

Finally, our next All Hands meeting will be on Tuesday, November 20th at 12:30pm at Van Ness Elementary. In honor of Thanksgiving, the All Hands will be a pot luck. Stay tuned for more details and an Outlook invite from my assistant, Juan Garcia.

Have a safe and happy Halloween!

Deborah

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