



"Moving from a system of schools to a SCHOOL SYSTEM"

SUPERINTENDENT'S "End of the Year" UPDATE

June 24, 2015

Larry Licopoli

What to Say?

I have to admit that I am struggling with how to say good bye to all of you and to the Peekskill school community. ***I can say that I am---***

- Optimistic on the plans that are in place in moving our... *your* school district forward. I think we have come to grips with the fact that all learning relies on literacy, and that embedding literacy across all the subjects which students study during the day is critical to their success.
- Proud that we have been able to add needed and valuable staff for the 2015-2016 school year providing more reading, ELL services, and lower class sizes, while increasing our K-12 support across the District. Moreover, we have implemented plans through our CIA structure that adds many new classes and opportunities for our children to learn and prosper from. The newly proposed college ready courses at the high school now put us in the same arena as many of our neighboring suburban schools!
- Pleased that we have delivered on a high quality-laden level of district-wide professional development. The formation of a tier of teacher leaders being part of the leadership process will surely advance our school district and student learning. I am convinced we will see the impact of this work in short order.
- Delighted to see that we have met our initial goals for the performing arts: "The Breakfast Club," "The Wiz," and "Once on This Island;" they were all outstanding. Hillcrest's premiere of their Grade 4 band was just priceless. Moreover, the recommendations for improving our visual arts program are terrific. The future is so bright for us in showcasing the talents of our students. What fun!

- Glad to see that our plans for capital upgrades will eventually come to fruition providing for better facilities and grounds that support the learning goals of our students.

I guess the hardest thing to express to you all is that I loved being part of Peekskill and working alongside a staff that I know is committed to our children. I feel truly blessed that I have had this opportunity to be part of a rich, positive, culturally diverse community such as the Peekskill City School District. Our students are terrific and deserving of the very best educational opportunities that any student from any school district should have. We need to give them and their parents/guardians our best every day!

In closing, I am looking forward to being home with my family and, of course, "spoiling" my new granddaughter☺. It has been an honor to serve you as your Superintendent and my best wishes are extended to each of you.

Sincerely,

Larry Licopoli