



State School for the Blind

Mike DeWine, Governor
Paolo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Lou Maynus, Interim Superintendent, Ohio State School for the Blind



Hello Everyone,

As we move into the second half of the school year, I want to share just a few items on our current work plan. Per this rule: *The Superintendent of each school is directed to establish and maintain an orderly plan for persevering and making accessible the policies adopted by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the procedures needed to put them into effect.* We have a number of draft policies that were prepared by the Ohio School Boards association for us to consider. Our leadership team is currently polishing them before we share with you. You will be provided a link where you can go to read them and you will have an opportunity to comment before we propose them to legal and finally the attorney general's office. These policies are found in traditional schools and have been modified for our schools in terms of governing in our settings. I am particularly excited about this work. We have a number of people who have been working hard to make this happen.

We have folks working on several publications for the spring (updated tour guides for visitors, an annual journal of events, and the multiple measures annual report for the state). This is part of a larger communications plan we want to get solidly in place. We further want a policy that encourages notification that our schools are an option for students across the state. Creating and sending out such publications will help to showcase the great work you are doing and the offerings we have on our campuses.

We have the *Innovation Readiness Team* (IRT) application in the process and the military leaders will be on campus January 15th to help continue this work (they will not be touring). OSD will be hosting a *Stakeholders* meeting this spring similar to the one held in the fall at OSSB. The information gathered from both stakeholder meetings, previous student focus groups data, and previous teacher talks data will inform our *Strategic Planning process* and our *Curriculum planning* that will take place this semester as well. ODE has offered technical assistance in a number of optional curriculum areas through Dr. Monachino's office, we had a great session recently with her entire team. Boundless Behavior Health has approached us about a possible grant opportunity for some additional mental health services for our students. More information forthcoming on this. Next week, we begin reviewing and revising our security plans for each school. We also are continuing to promote our requests for additional *considerations for budget increases* at both schools with state leaders by answering questions with hard data. A large number of individuals continue to help to put this data together. The YMCA will be conducting a feasibility study and exciting ideas continue to emerge around this concept.

These are a few of the many things happening and I want to keep you informed and included as much as possible without pulling folks too much from the actual work of teaching and learning. Please know that I plan to quietly visit classrooms again with your principals over the next couple of weeks. It always helps me to articulate the great things happening in our schools with other leaders.

I hope you had a restful holiday with family and friends. I enjoyed my first holiday season in Columbus. Many people have asked me if I like this area. The answer is definitely - YES. There are more amenities such as shopping, places to walk, and the medical facilities. Occasionally, I miss the familiarity of home and a few friends but this has been a good move for us. You know my husband loves it here. My son likes his school, one daughter has started OSU, and the other daughter is substitute teaching. We feel very fortunate to live in Central Ohio.

We begin this second semester with rolled up sleeves and a work plan for success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lou Magnus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lou