

October, 2011

Over the past several weeks, I have had the opportunity to meet with the Board of Education, faculty, staff, parents and community members in Plainville. Through these meetings, I have learned a great deal about Plainville Community Schools, and we have much to be proud of. My first impressions of our school district are positive ones that I would like to share with you.

First, within Plainville Community Schools, there is a strong connection between central office administration, school administration and the teachers in the classroom. As a result of these connections, we are able to work together to continuously improve what and how we teach, use data to support our initiatives and strategies, infuse technology at all levels of learning, and base decisions on what is best for students. Through this collective commitment, standardized test results have shown marked improvement, and we have witnessed a significant reduction in the number of students performing at lower levels on these tests. In addition to continuous academic improvement, our school district continues to expand opportunities for students to broaden their horizons through rich opportunities for academic, social and emotional growth and learning. Expanded offerings in the high school's advanced placement program raise the bar for students preparing for post graduation studies, and a variety of academic, co-curricular and support programs engage and motivate our diverse student population. Some of these include Scientific Research Based Interventions, STARS summer reading and math program, and the Plainville Family Resource Network. An array of clubs, athletics, enrichment programs and community service opportunities are also available to students throughout the district.

In reflecting on district operations and the Board of Education, efficiency and effectiveness come to mind, with several examples that highlight these areas. The volume of information and materials shared publically by the Central Office administration with the Board of Education, on a regular basis, exceed what is typically shared in other school districts, while the business practices and procedures of administration have been scrutinized to a level not witnessed in most districts. It is apparent that the business office has worked tirelessly to streamline operations, and to seek and employ innovative cost containment strategies and economies of scale.

There is an obvious and visible sense of pride that radiates from the community relative to our schools and the accomplishments of our students. Parents are proud of their children, and support their efforts to succeed. Opportunities available through the district's volunteer program link members of the community to our school district, and as such, we enjoy a number of

partnerships with individuals, local businesses and organizations. These partnerships further strengthen and energize the relationship between our school learning community and the greater community.

Finally, as I visit our schools on a regular basis, I recognize the thoughtful efforts put forth to update and improve district facilities, and admire the immaculately maintained school buildings. Through these efforts, eco-friendly, cost saving features have been incorporated into safe learning environments with classrooms that are well equipped and conducive to teaching and learning.

In formulating my “first impressions,” it is clear to me that our school district is well positioned to continue on the path of collective continuous improvement. I am proud to lead Plainville Community Schools, and look forward to celebrating our many successes going forward.