



MESSENGER

A Publication of Northern Lehigh School District and the Communities it Serves

A Message From The Superintendent

Northern Lehigh School District is in the process of a major renovation project at the Slatington Elementary School. Many community members have asked why we need this renovation project. Hopefully this article will answer many of your questions and address many concerns you may have.

The Slatington Elementary School, while very well constructed and maintained, is the only facility in the District which has not received an upgrade since the initial construction in 1971. Since that time many dramatic changes have occurred in the educational, security and mechanical requirements of a facility in order to effectively and safely implement educational programs. The scope of work to upgrade Slatington Elementary School to meet these requirements has been carefully evaluated to provide the necessary upgrades in the most fiscally responsible manner. Major areas of concern include:

Education Needs

The building must be altered to effectively deliver educational programs which are much different than in the 1970's.

- The open plan concept is not conducive to teaching or learning and will be converted to traditional classrooms with sound rated partitions.
- Since the facility was constructed, many programs mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education have been added which require spaces for teaching small groups outside of a traditional classroom setting. Currently small groups meet in substandard spaces.

Security Needs

The existing building lacks the security measures required of all current school designs.

- A secure entry vestibule would prevent visitors from moving freely about the building after entry.
- The remote second floor Elementary School Office and Nurse's Suite require visitors to travel from the first floor lobby through the building to the upper level. These offices should be located at the main entry.
- The District Administration Office must be accessed through the Elementary School. This mixing of public and students is dangerous.
- Classrooms, Library and cafeteria areas are all open without the ability to lockdown in the event of a security breach.

Accessibility (ADA)

Although an elevator was added a few years ago to provide vertical ADA circulation, many other elements of the building are not ADA accessible or compliant. Items included, but are not limited to the following:

- The entry plaza exceeds maximum allowable slope.

Continued on page 2

New Food Service Director at Northern Lehigh

I would like to introduce myself as the new Food Service Director. I come to the school district with a Bachelors degree in Food Service Management from East Stroudsburg University and 25 years experience in the food service industry. I have worked with the Wood Company, Marriott and Hilton hotel chains in various capacities such as catering director, food service director, regional marketing manager and district manager. I live in Laurys Station with my husband of 22 years and my three children Matt, A.J. and Jessica. I look forward to being part of the team here at Northern Lehigh School District.



This year we introduced a new menu that was developed by a survey done at the end of school last year. We got a great response and hope the students and staff enjoy the end results. We also added an alternate entree item to the menu. If you don't particularly like the entree offered, you can select the alternative. We hope this lets you find something you like and in turn join us for lunch on a regular basis.

I look forward to exciting things to come in the Food Service Department and serving Northern Lehigh School District in the 2009-2010 school year!

Susan Bahnick - Food Service Director



superintendent message continued from page 1

- Administration area countertop heights are not accessible.
- Wheelchair approach clearances at many doors are not adequate.
- Toilet rooms are not accessible.
- Door hardware is not ADA compliant.

Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing Systems

Many systems, while well maintained, are nearing the end of their useful life. More importantly, they are not energy efficient.

- Lighting fixtures should be replaced with new energy efficient fixtures/lamping.
- All electrical and mechanical systems should be replaced with new energy efficient equipment.
- New controls will produce savings through more efficient operation of all systems.
- Plumbing fixtures should be replaced with low-consumption fixtures and automatic controls which will provide savings through the use of less water.

The renovation project is to begin in Spring 2010 and last approximately 20 months. In February 2010 there will be an Act 34 Public Hearing held in the Board Room at Slatington Elementary School to review all relevant matters relating to the renovations and additions to the Slatington Elementary School and District Administration Office. A description of the Project, including facts with respect to the physical, administrative, budgetary and fiscal matters related to the Project, will be presented. All are invited to attend.

Michael W. Michaels - Superintendent