

Our Path to First Choice No.35

2018/19

Everyone,

May Day! May has arrived. It is like the re-entry into the earth's atmosphere of the space shuttle. We know the mission is nearing its end, but the intensity has gotten greater!! Here's Path Note No. 35.

Our Path Topic

Last week, the WASD School Board received a presentation about the Junior ROTC Program (Reserve Officer Training Corp). The Junior ROTC is a program the military offers to high schools. It provides leadership development, character building, and many more skill builders. It provides students a career ladder into the military. Students can enter the military at a higher rank and pay if they complete the program. Students can use the program to go into a college ROTC program. That program can provide college and officer training to advance a student's military career opportunities. It is also a program that high school students can participate, but not necessarily have aspirations for a military future.

The Junior ROTC is a program that fits the First Choice vision well. It is a Career Pathway, which also offers a Career Ladder within that pathway. The ability to earn a higher rank and pay or ability to move into a college ROTC program is certainly steps to build on one's career. It has an influence on other First Choice skills of the whole child as discipline, leadership, confidence, integrity and character.

With the early childhood CDA program (Child Development Associate's certificate), we are creating more career pathways and more career ladders to assist students in building their careers and post-high school lives. That is the "out the door" part of First Choice. Over the coming years, we hope to have more certifications and licensing opportunities for our students.

One last note, please remember, First Choice is not just high school career-only vision, the vision includes the academic and whole child needs and skills necessary to achieve a student's First Choice. Also, please remember that each and every one of us have to learn to understand how vital our part is in the final product of a student's First Choice. Elementary, middle, and high school all have a role.

More to come on First Choice!

Board Information and Policy Updates

- Next School Board Meetings
 - May 7th at 6:30PM is the Facilities Committee Meeting.
 - May 14th at 7PM is the next Regular Board Meeting.
 - April 30th at 7PM will be the special meeting to approve the 2019/20 budget.

You may check out District policies by going to this site: <https://www.boarddocs.com/pa/wayn/Board.nsf/Public>

A Challenge for You

What are a School Board's primary responsibilities?

Piece of the Puzzle

This week's Piece of the Puzzle is Caroline Tassone. Although Caroline is retiring at the end of this school year, she leaves a legacy of community partnerships and respect that are difficult to duplicate. Caroline led the organizing of the Financial Literacy Program that involved community leaders and the business community. She advised a generation of FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) students that earned many respected awards and recognitions. During her years, she had PA State Presidents of FBLA. Caroline has been a strong advocate of the Business Department, and champion for her students. Congratulate Caroline for two reasons—her retirement and being this week's Piece of the Puzzle.

*Challenge Answer (Important to Know)

School boards in Pennsylvania primary responsibilities are to hire the superintendent, approve a balanced budget, approve the purchase of textbooks, approve curriculum, and be the guardian of the school district for the community. They are the only district entity that has the authority to hire and fire. Administration recommends personnel activity, but the school board acts upon it.

Final Thoughts

- Most of our competitor nations around the world have a national education system and America is the only major nation in the world that operates off of local school boards. They receive very little direction from state boards of education or from the nation. So local school boards direct what happens and too often they are not willing to track or to do the supervision of the education system that will make it world competitive. -- John Glenn
- We do need curriculum reform. Moreover, it should happen at the state and local level. That is where educational policy belongs, because if a parent is unhappy with what their child is being taught in school, they can go to that local school board or their state legislature, or their governor and get it changed. --Marco Rubio
- But the best thing Washington can do for education is realize that our role is limited. Washington must keep its promises, but let those who know our childrens' names- parents, teachers and school board members- make education decisions. --Mother Jones

Enjoy the rest of your week!

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