

## **Superintendent's Weekly Message: 5-27-20**

While reading about how schools are re-opening in other states and other parts of the world, I came upon a piece of advice. It was "Master the present while you plan for the future." I have given some thought to this.

We can think of mastery as both the development of high proficiency with respect to skill-building. Certainly, our teachers and administrators have been working intently to master new teaching skills, in much the same way students have been working to master new learning skills. They have been engaged in this process together as they move forward. Based on all that has been learned, including both the "highs" and "lows" experienced these past two months, we will plan our reopening in September and the blended learning classroom that will combine the best of both traditional and digital learning.

We can also think of mastery in terms of accomplishments. The Board, Mr. Randazzo, and I have been putting finishing touches on several Bond projects in the district. At Lincoln Orens Middle School (LOMS), we are fully operational in every instructional space throughout the building. We await the warranty inspection for the air conditioning; afterwards, we will be delighted that this job has been accomplished and certified. At Francis X Hegarty Elementary School (FXH), we look forward to completion of the air conditioning and back-up generator projects next month. Simultaneously, we have moved forward with the casework project at FXH; all rooms on the first floor that did not have casework replaced after Super-storm Sandy will have it replaced now. We expect installation to begin the last week of June. All electrical lines to the Hegarty art room were cut last week and asbestos abatement begins this week with respect to the art room ceiling, walls, and floor. This will take almost a month; then the newly designed, purposely built art room will begin taking shape. Similarly, new work at LOMS is underway. The three science classrooms, science research lab, and art room are being emptied so that they, too, can be gutted. We look forward to saying "mission accomplished" for all of these Bond projects by the end of August.

I am not quite sure we ever truly reach the level of mastery we all seek in our work. I am not sure that even when a project is finished or finally accomplished, we never go back to it again. Nevertheless, I like the idea that we can improve ourselves through our life's work while simultaneously imagining the future we want.

Although it is heartbreaking not to have the students in our buildings right now, I assure you, we are planning for their return. We can't wait for them to walk into their air conditioned classrooms. We can't wait for them to work in their new science and art classrooms exploring innovative phenomena and creative endeavors. We are truly committed to mastering the present while planning for the future.

Wishing you and your family a "song in your heart" as you work and plan together for a better tomorrow!

With fond regards,

Rosmarie T. Bovino, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

