



Central Cambria School District

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SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Central Cambria Families and Friends:

As we embark on a new school year ahead, I am committed as your new Superintendent of Schools to keep you informed about the state of our school district including our people, our successes, our resources, current initiatives, challenges, and how we are improving educational outcomes and options for all of our students.

I am excited about what's ahead for Central Cambria School District. The past school year was a time of transition and successes that will give our students and the District momentum going into the 2018-19 school year. Reflecting on the past school year, we made important progress in a number of areas, including:

- **New leadership appointments** in the past six months were made at the district level, and also at Central Cambria high school and middle school. Our District also welcomed three newly-elected school board members Craig Gibson, Chuck Marcinko, and Nate Martin.
- **Plans are underway for a major multi-million-dollar capital infrastructure and necessary improvement investments throughout District facilities.** We saw a need through our District Safety Committee that required us to invest more than one-half million for renovations at Jackson Elementary this summer. There will be a grand opening for this facility this Fall. Also, our high school building is preparing for a major exterior renovation to replace the nearly 50-year-old deteriorating concrete around all of its windows. We are actively planning roofing projects throughout all of the district's facilities.
- **Our students are excelling in every respect.** The class of 2018 graduated 142 students, and approximately 97% of our students completed their secondary education in our District which is well above both local and state averages. This is a testament to the hard work of teachers, parents and families who rise to the challenge of helping their children to balance studies, activities and social interactions throughout the school year. Our students are excelling equally in academics, athletics and the arts. Our students have a high rate of scholarship opportunity as they pursue their dreams. Additionally, the District has committed to a one-to-one computer initiative for our students.
- **We are a successfully competitive district in every sense.** Earlier this year, our girls' varsity team captured Central Cambria's first ever Laurel Highlands Athletic Conference Volleyball Championship, and our girls' golf team has taken back-to-back District 6 Titles. Also, I have the honor of serving with five other superintendents across the Commonwealth to advocate for a level playing field regarding PIAA playoff equity for all schools.

- **We are an integral part of the community's economic outlook.** Key initiatives we are undertaking include: studying ways to use energy more effectively, increasing new educational curriculum opportunities through the *Inventionland STEM* program, as well as a new engineering program from *Project Lead the Way* while utilizing private funding instead of tax dollars in doing so. We're developing partnerships with local and national businesses that are important to advancing educational opportunities through comprehensive experiential learning for our children.
- **Our District is fortunate to carry a prudently responsible fund balance** necessary to support our anticipated needs in the next five years. From significant capital investment needed in our facilities, to plans for continued growth, and the ability to offset anticipated operating deficits for special needs programs and for escalating costs related to the PSERS pension employer contribution rate for District employees, we are investing existing resources in our students, teachers, and facilities
- **From a financial standpoint,** more than 70% of the District's \$23.5 million annual operating budget is allocated for salaries and benefits. Payment of debt service, the cost of heat and utilities, and student transportation and tuition comprise most of the remaining 30% of District expenses. Most importantly, our school district has been fiscally responsible in managing its resources appropriately so that we can offer the best publicly-funded education to our community without having raised the school tax rate in the past seven years.

As we anticipate the new school year, we will be in the midst of collective bargaining for the 133 members of our valued teaching staff. We believe in a fair and equitable process of making sure that our teachers are compensated appropriately and are hopeful for a successful conclusion to a new agreement.

The year ahead will, no doubt, pose other new opportunities along with new challenges. In my first full year as your Superintendent, I am focused on the goals that have been set for me by the elected members of our school board ([click here to view CCSD Superintendent Goals 2018-19](#)). We will start the new school year with a lot of momentum, including: implementation of new academic programs, welcoming new teachers into the District at every level with focus on maintaining the lowest teacher-student ratio in all of our classrooms, as well as a robust arts program, among other supports for teachers and students.

My approach is to lead this District in the most transparent way possible so that the entire community may participate in the growth, safekeeping, and well-being of our school system and every student who is a part of it, and every taxpayer who values our role in the community. You will see a higher level of communication, including via social media, from our District going forward so that everyone has access to our information and understands our accomplishments and the challenges ahead.

As a father of school age children and a board member of a nearby school district, I am committed to making sure that our public education system is the best it can be. I look forward to serving this community by building new relationships with all who have a stake in the success of our students. I encourage you to reach out, say hello, and let me know if you have any ideas, questions or concerns about District operations. I look forward to getting to know you.

Sincerely,

Jason Moore
Superintendent of Schools
Central Cambria School District