

TO: Board of School Directors  
FR: Bernie Kepler, Superintendent  
RE: November 2020 Board Report  
DT: November 19, 2020

### **Student Activities:**

- Congratulations to Jakolby Fackler for being selected as the Palmyra Area High School November Rotary Student of the Month.
- Congratulations to our Girls Field Hockey team for winning the District III AA Championship and advancing to Saturday's PIAA AA State Championship game versus Archbishop Carroll. The game will be held at Whitehall High School at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.
- Palmyra students Molly Gerhart and Sydney Saterstad recently participated in a global youth forum on Artificial Intelligence applied to education. Their dialogue and collaboration with their international peers will help inform global education policy for the United Nations. Molly's reaction to the conference, "It was such a unique experience where we got to discuss the use of artificial intelligence in education with students from around the world. I learned a lot about new points concerning AI, I also got to see that many students agreed with my opinions. This conference really showed me that people from different places and ages can all have similar thoughts and perspectives." Sydney's thoughts on the experience, "The forum was very interesting to participate in and very enjoying. I loved hearing my other peers' opinions about AI in education and I liked sharing my ideas about it as well. I learned how everyone is different and has different ideas. It also showed how if all of our ideas come together and if everyone's voices are heard they can make a great impact."
- The PAHS Student Council recently replaced the hanging "banners" in the high school atrium. The new banners are orange with a black Cougar paw or black with an orange Cougar paw and bring additional school spirit to the high school.

### **Other:**

- PASD has been made aware of the final release of ESSER/CARES funds from the federal government, via the PA Dept. of Education. PASD's allocation is \$110,217. It is the intent of the administration to use the grant to offset costs associated with providing the Cougar Academy option to students in 2020-21.
- Since the beginning of the 2020-21 school-year, PASD has been involved in contact tracing of 19 positive COVID-19 cases among six schools. To place this into perspective, we have approximately 4,000 people enter our schools on each regular school day and we have had 57 days of school. This equates to 228,000 visits by students and staff. With 19 positive cases, we have had a .00833% positivity rate per person entering our schools. As of this morning, we had five active cases in the district. We continue to monitor county data, local data and data within our schools.
- This week new guidance from the Department of the Health regarding travel and requirements to provide a negative COVID-19 test or quarantine for 14 days was released. Additionally, the Secretary of Health updated her facial coverings/mask guidelines. PASD is working through both of these updates.

### **Upcoming Events:**

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| • November 21, 2020                 | PIAA AA State Field Hockey Championship |
| • November 25-30, 2020              | Thanksgiving Break                      |
| • December 23, 2020                 | Early Dismissal                         |
| • December 24, 2020-January 3, 2021 | Christmas Break                         |