



COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 15

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Laurie Heinz, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

DATE: September 11, 2019
TO: Board of Education
FROM: Dr. Laurie Heinz, Superintendent
RE: Staff Recognition

As a District of nearly 2,000 employees, we have many staff members that regularly work beyond their job description on behalf of our students. I see evidence of such commitment daily as I walk through our schools and the Educational Service Center. It is something everyone in District 15 should feel proud of -- the passion our employees display surrounding our shared work and the above and beyond mentality that I see in so many.

That said, there are times when a staff member or members do something that warrants a public *High 5* for a job exceptionally well-done.

Tonight, I would like to recognize three individuals that, through their dedication to our students, families, and facilities, deserve special recognition.

Mrs. Amarilis Vargas is the head secretary at Lake Louise Elementary School. She has worked at Lake Louise for the last 2 years. Mrs. Vargas is being recognized tonight for her 24/7 commitment to the staff, families, and students at Lake Louise. Specifically, she is being recognized for her work prior to the start of the school year to help numerous families complete the registration process.

According to building leaders Jennifer Seoane, Josh Cimo and Megan Preis, Mrs. Vargas worked tirelessly to register families and support our enrollment process above and beyond what is asked of her. As a result, school opened with many more students enrolled and able to start school on day one than would have been had she not gone above and beyond her typical workday to do so.

In addition to her duties at Lake Louise, Mrs. Vargas has been integral to our implementation of Infinite Campus, our new Student Information System. She has served on committees to determine our process and to help the roll out of the program over the last nine months.

Mr. Van Le - I have heard - is no stranger being recognized at a Board meeting for his efforts as the head of our custodial department, but is nonetheless worthy of a High 5 tonight for his Herculean efforts

to get our buildings ready for school to open. Mr. Le may as well live in our schools. To ensure our buildings were in tip-top shape for the arrival of staff and students, Mr. Le worked every Friday, most Saturdays and even Sundays this summer without overtime pay. Additionally, the days were long often going well into the evening.

Mr. Le scheduled staff to make sure construction projects were completed and that ALL buildings were ready for the start of school. His biggest challenges were Lincoln and Central Road Schools, where the majority of summer work occurred and was down to the wire in terms of completion.

Mr. Le is to be commended for his efforts and deep commitment to District 15 schools.

I would also like to thank members of both the custodial and maintenance staff for their hard work getting our schools ready to open.

Sue Hotten is one of our dedicated bus drivers who has driven for D15 for 6 years. While driving back to our Bus Depot, Sue saw a young student walking on Frontage Road alongside Route 53. Sue immediately stopped the bus, picked up the child and drove her back to her school -- Lake Louise.

We are so thankful that Sue showed such urgency and concern for a youngster and made sure she got to school safe and sound.

Sue also takes the lead in the transportation department in organizing fund raising for the end of year employee picnic with pizza and bake sales and luncheons. So if you are in need of good pizza Sue is the lady to contact. Outside of District 15, Sue, is constantly thinking of other people and works with many charities.

