

Jamie Cain editorial
August 21, 2016

Welcome Back

This school year we will welcome back our students and educators with a heightened enthusiasm as we begin a new chapter for Port Huron Schools! We have been instructing students all summer long via summer school programming and providing various enrichment programs that meet the educational needs and interests of our students. Just this week a new summer camp with a focus on audio/visual production skills in our district's PHS-TV station launched. Our district is proud of the opportunities offered all year because of partnerships with Port Huron City Recreation, Meet Up and Eat Up, the YMCA of the Blue Water Area, 21st Century Horizons and other grant programs and EBW.tv. Our Cleveland Super Bees have been back in the classroom for a month in their balanced calendar. The new 2016-17 school year is sure to be a remarkable one! We have a renewed spirit and sense of purpose.

On August 2 the voters of the Port Huron Area School District made history. We, as a district, are so appreciative for your support of our organization's vision. What a rewarding process it has been to have such in-depth community engagement. This was a successful and evolving dialogue about district needs and the community's priorities for our schools and students.

I am as eager as anyone to see shovels in the ground and construction underway. Doing things the right way requires strategic accuracy and not always speed, however. There are some deliberate steps that need to take place first. I can assure you, the district is working very hard to bring our vision to reality. We are moving forward on planning and prioritizing the approved items from the passed proposal. One important aspect to highlight is intentionally completing the designated work over a time frame that allows local contractors and businesses to have every opportunity to be involved. This is important to our Board of Education and me.

We encourage our community to check back and review our progress, which will be updated as it happens via our website, social media, my weekly communication to the community, and other various forums and processes. I also encourage you to take a look at our history and progress as a community on our PHS-TV television programming, which can be viewed on Comcast channel 6, Vimeo.com, Facebook.com/phstelevision and the PHS channel on EBW.tv. Fall sports season begins this week and we are proud to offer renewed and re-envisioned programming with student crews and live streaming of football games.

This district is taking a huge step forward with the confidence of the voters behind us. We do not take this lightly and know there is a huge need to have transparency in our reporting and process. We appreciate all of our personnel who worked so diligently to communicate the importance of this bond with the public. This success was made even more impactful by the togetherness, unity and #1PHASD spirit that went into its support.

Thank you to the Port Huron Schools community and welcome back teachers, students and families as we get back to the important work of building the leaders and citizens of tomorrow, today.

Jamie Cain
Superintendent of Port Huron Schools