On Sunday, November 12, 2016, the Hinds County Public School District sponsored a community luncheon from 1:30-4:00 p.m. at Byram Middle School.

Timothy Quinn, M.D., Medical Director and Owner of Quinn Healthcare, LLC., served as the keynote speaker at the luncheon. The theme was “Bridging the Gap for a Brighter Tomorrow—Schools, Churches, Parents, & Communities Collaborating for Success.”

Some of those attending included local mayors, law enforcement representatives, community faith-based leaders, business leaders, parents, students and school educators.

Other informative sessions provided for those in attendance included the following topics:

- State of the District Address by Superintendent Delesicia Martin;
- Navigating the Curriculum by HCSD Curriculum Specialists LaShona Myers and Teresa McLeod; and
- Capital Projects and Facility Updates by Earl Burke, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services & Operations.

Entertainment was also provided at the luncheon by the Byram Middle School Choir and Band under the direction of Symeon Robins.

On November 8, 2016, HCSD residents in District One and District Two headed to the polls to vote for school board members. The five-member Board of Trustees determines policy to guide the district. Elected in alternating years with overlapping terms, each member serves a six-year term.

Two presiding board members were re-elected: Pastor Tim Burnett in District One and Mrs. Robbie Anderson in District Two. New terms will run 2017-2022.

The School Board meetings are open to the public and occur on the second Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. For more information regarding the board meetings, please contact the School Board secretary, Fay Mabry, at 601-857-5222 or refer to the Board Calendar.
Dr. Burris, GRE Principal, and Robin Garrard, Hinds Emergency Management Planner Coordinator served food and drinks, cleaned tables, and assisted with picking up trash and placing it in receptacles. School Counselor Nakisha Grace and 7th grade Language Arts and Social Studies teacher Kedra Harris accompanied the students. "The students of Bolton Edwards Elementary Middle School were glad to offer support to Stewpot Community Services. These students were glad to give back in a huge way in remaining selfless, not only with their character, but determination. The Character Committee students are always there to lend a helping hand to others in need," said Mrs. Grace.

The students reflected on their time at the Stewpot. Omyah Clark, 8th grader, mentioned that “you were able to see people who were more unfortunate than yourself.” He “was inspired to give back” and also said he was reminded that “complaining is not the answer.” Timothy Thompson, 7th grader, stated that he was “glad to help someone in need and to see how appreciative they were in receiving help.”
UPDATE ON THS ATHLETIC COMPLEX

The Terry High School ground breaking ceremony marked the start of construction for upgrades and new additions to the THS Athletic Complex.

Phase I involves new parking areas followed by a new athletic entrance to the complex with ticket windows, offices, concessions, and restrooms. The next phase will include a new Fieldhouse that will house football, softball, soccer, baseball, and track for both girls and boys.

Local attendees included: Mayor Joseph Kendrick – Terry; Mayor Richard White – Byram; Jerry Gibson, Former THS baseball coach; local board members; district officials; THS coaches; parents; teachers; and student athletes.

UPDATE ON NEW FIELD HOUSE AT RHS

The Raymond High School ground breaking ceremony marked the start of construction of a 4,600 square foot Fieldhouse for Girls’ Softball and Girls’ and Boys’ Soccer Teams. The facility will include locker rooms, offices, concessions and bathrooms. Local attendees included: Mayor Isla Tullos – City of Raymond; Mayor Kenneth Broom – City of Utica; local board members; district officials; RHS coaches; parents; teachers; and student athletes.
In November, the HCSD Human Resources Department chose the theme of “Effective Leadership” for the Employee of the Month. This person must demonstrate qualities of good leadership skills by creating a work environment that attracts, keeps, and motivates its workforce to reach its potential.

Employees follow their example out of respect for their ability, not just their position or title. They inspire their staff to work toward their goals because they’ve made them personal to each staff member.

Winners are chosen by a district level committee that reviews nominations from schools and departments across the district. Prizes for winners each month include an automatic nomination for the annual Employee of the Year Award, a recognition certificate, and a gift card.

HCSD Employee of the Month: Jayme Byrd

Mrs. Jayme Byrd, Administrative Assistant at Terry High School, was recognized as the HCSD November Employee of the Month during a meeting of the Board of Trustees held on November 10, 2016. She actually received five nominations from her school, more than any other nominee!

November’s theme was “effective leadership.” Mrs. Byrd’s nominees had many positives phrases to describe her work ethics and leadership traits:

- “a woman of her word”
- “always gets things done on time”
- “creates a team atmosphere”
- “couldn’t survive without her”
- “works really hard to make sure everything runs smoothly”
- “always willing to help”
- “very knowledgeable”

Congratulations, Mrs. Byrd, for 15 years of outstanding service to HCSD!

Bus Driver of the Month: Shirley Green

The HCSD Board of Trustees recognized Ms. Shirley Green as Bus Driver of the Month at the November 10th board meeting. Ms. Green currently drives Route DT19 for Durham School Services.

Board member Carolyn Samuel presented Ms. Green the award, citing her “record attendance, outstanding safety” and “ability to go the extra mile.”

Ms. Green has been driving a bus for the Hinds County School District for 44 years. Her service to the students of HCSD is truly worthy of such recognition!
HCSD is a collaborative environment where we explore the world, experience authentic learning, enhance our character, envision our dreams, pursue excellence and celebrate success.

GOALS

- All Students are Proficient and Show Growth in ALL Assessed Areas
- Every Student Graduates High School and is Ready for College and Career
- Schools are Safe and Secure Environments
- HCSD Actively Recruits, Retains, and Develops Highly Competent, Caring and Student-Focused Staff

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT’S DESK

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Partners:

If you haven’t already heard the good news, I’m pleased to let you know that all of our schools maintained or improved school accountability grades, according to the data released in October by the Mississippi Department of Education. Raymond Elementary School and Carver Middle School each earned a “B” rating, and several other schools throughout the district showed strong gains.

We have taken a big step forward on our journey toward excellence in the district, and we believe these achievements are a testament to the professionalism of our staff and to the commitment of our students and parents. Our goal from the start has been to ensure all students are proficient and show growth on these assessments, and we are making clear progress toward that goal.

Sincerely,

Delesicia Martin

For regular blogs from Dr. Martin, visit the HCSD homepage and click on “Superintendents Corner.”