

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT



December 16, 2011

Dear Byram Township School Parents and Guardians:

I believe the saying goes, "Timing is everything". I began my tenure in Byram energized with high expectations of academic excellence and smooth sailing. Little did I know the maelstrom I would encounter. One month into my term as superintendent, the fuel oil bid process/consortium problem surfaced. Four months into the job, I discovered the district had a huge financial deficit. By month five, the Lakes School Principal had a major stroke. Being fully cognizant of the funding situation, I convinced my administrative staff to provide administrative coverage at Lakes School for the remaining 6 months of the school year, saving the district the cost of an interim school principal. I have acted as an interim Business Administrator and since January 2010 held a dual position of Special Education Director at no additional cost to the taxpayers of Byram. Difficult and, of course, unpopular decisions needed to be made regarding downsizing personnel and cutting programs. We survived and persevered. I believe we have weathered the worst of the storm and the sun has begun to shine.

I know that I tried to provide Byram Township Schools with leadership and guidance through this dark period in the district's history. The Byram Township Board of Education accepted my resignation from my positions as Superintendent of Schools and Director of Special Services at their meeting on December 14, 2011. My last day in district should be February 28, 2012.

The focus of Byram Township Schools should be on service and excellence. I am pleased that I had the opportunity to serve and work with the students in this fine community.

"The secret of education lies in respecting the pupil." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Best wishes to you and your family for a healthy, happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Gayle Strauss, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Merry
Christmas



GS/grb

happy
hanukkah

