

PROGRAM: WASD NEW SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT, DR. BRENDA FREEMAN

Posted by Terry Babb on Aug 17, 2016



Pat Davis, Dr. Brenda Freeman, WASD Superintendent, Matt Baker, President Mike Hummel

Pat Davis introduced us to Dr. Brenda Freeman, the new Superintendent of the Wellsboro Area School District (WASD). Highlights of her presentation to us about her background in education as well as her vision and goals for the WASD:



- She recently celebrated with her husband Tom their 36th wedding anniversary; they have 2 adult children, a son and daughter, who have been educators. Her son is currently a pastor of a local church congregation. They also have six grandchildren.
- She believes in partnership, whether with children, their parents, or an entire community; it has always been a primary theme in any of her endeavors in education. It has become her philosophy as an administrator - developing relationships.
- While her two children were in elementary school she obtained her B.S in Elementary Education from Mansfield University in 1996. Four years later she received her Master's Degree in Education from MU. She went on to earn a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Andrews University of Michigan in 2008. She graduated Summa Cum Laude, 1st in her graduating class.
- During her career in Southern Tioga School District, she taught 5th grade, became the Technology Director for the district, and then the Curriculum Director.
- More recently, Dr. Freeman has been the Superintendent of the Galeton School district. She is originally from Galeton. During the past three years she has helped that district update its strategic plan and graduation requirements, and, more importantly to her, she saw the average test scores of pupils within the district improve from just below 70 to nearly 86 points.
- She believes in outreach in education - to business, the non-profit sector, and to the community-at-large. Partnership is what she's all about; she will carry that theme into her new role in Wellsboro.
- During Q&A with members she offered these points:
 - She'd like to move the district forward from a commendable test scorer performance level, improving aspects of its state performance profile, like graduation rate, grades, state testing scores, extracurricular involvement rate.

- She'd like to see average test scores, currently in the high 80's, continue to rise.
- She'd like to learn every student's name, realizing that is a daunting task - Galeton has some 360 students and she knew their names. With WASD just under 1500 students, knowing all students names will be difficult but she's up to the challenge. The importance of doing so for her is "partnership" with students and their parents.
- In Galeton she has used the "chocolate bowl" on her desk to invite students to drop in to her office any time. She'd like to continue that tradition in Wellsboro.
- She discussed in detail the current specifics with the progress of the new athletic field.
- When asked about Common Core, she said that WASD operates with the PA Common Core Curriculum. She knows that parents often fear and dislike "new math; she said that while she understands their frustration, the approach of PA Common Core is to give students greater ability and skill in critical thinking that will benefit them the rest of their adult lives. That said, she knows that "mandates" in any system of teaching come with problems that can be overcome.
- She said she believes that her brand of partnership can help do that.
- She said she believes wholeheartedly in the value of Manual Arts Curricula in high school, saying she knows not every student needs or will want to go onto college. Manual Arts such as human sciences in Home Economics and Industrial Arts, along with other trade-related curricula continue to be important aspects of education.
- She believes athletics is equally important to a student's well-rounded education.
- She said that while community service continues to be a requirement for all students' to graduate, the "senior project" has been eliminated as a requirement.
- When asked what she thinks she will be most proud of as a personal future accomplishment in WASD, she said she intends it to be about how well students are doing scholastically and in service to their community. If they are excelling, she will be very pleased.
- Ironically, in a way, she said past frustrations have been in working parents' understanding about the weather. She told a story to exemplify. A mother was chagrined at Dr. Freeman's delaying school opening, saying she had to go to work and what would she do with her child not being picked up by the bus until after she was at work. She could not leave the child home alone. Dr. Freeman invited the parent to please come into her office to discuss the problem. Upon attempting to do so, the mother slipped on the ice and broke her leg, and thus did not show up. The next day the mother called and apologized for not showing and for not understanding the serious nature of the weather that morning. The superintendent and mother became partners and fast friends.

[Read more...](#)

[CLUB NEWS AUGUST 11TH, 2016](#)

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President Mike Hummel chaired today's meeting.

Matt Baker offered the invocation.

We sang, "God Bless America," with **Pat Davis** accompanying on piano.

Guests & Visitors

Bob DeCamp introduced his wife, Anne; John Murphy introduced his invited guest, Roger Bunn.

Secretary's Report

Jim Tutak briefly explained our Foreign Exchange Student Program. The new incoming student is from Taiwan. Our outbound student is Audrey Becker, going to France.

Jim called our attention to a letter from Chamber of Commerce thanking our club for the planter at the corner near the Deane Center. **Jim** extended a thank you to members **Jim Paxson, Tim McBride, and Craig Devenport** for their presence at our table at the recent Senior Fair held at the WHS. **Jim** said there is a sign-up sheet being passed around for participation at our 2016 Rifle Raffle at the Bear weigh-in at the Fireman's Annex in November. **Jim** reported the Ellicott City Relief Fund donations are going well; we'll collect until the first week in September.

Mike Hummel also urged members to complete the survey to update their membership information.

Fines and Happy Bucks

TSAA Dick Ford fined **Mike Hummel** for not providing a box for our speaker to stand on today during her presentation. He fined **Pat Davis** for the same reason (she introduced today's presenter). He then fined the speaker for not standing tall enough. Really? LOL. All in good fun! Among today's "happy buckers": **Caleb Williams** gave a happy buck for **Hall Cleek's** earnest endeavor in inviting people to come to hear Dr. Brenda Freeman, our speaker today. **Tim Sinclair** was happy to announce his wife's winning a golf tournament. **Carol Druck** was happy to visit the Turks and Caicos Rotary while there on recent vacation. **John Johnston** is happy to coaching football this season. **Mike Hummel** is happy to be serving on the borough council.

Sing-a-long

We sang these songs accompanied by **Pat**

Davis: #65, "Sing Rotarians" and #66, "Singing in the Rain."

50/50 benefits Ellicott City Relief Fund

This week the 50/50 winner was ???

The Wheel Spin went to **Bob DeCamp**: "Pay \$2."

Next week **Travis Hunt** will provide the program. On the two following weeks **Natalie Kennedy** and then **John Johnston** provide programs.