

August 2007

Collaboratively Speaking

I trust that since I last wrote to you in July that you have had the opportunity to gain some rest and reflect on the successes of the past year and the challenges of the year ahead. As a superintendent I found it essential yet difficult to find the time to “recharge my battery” even as the school system continued to operate at its typical hectic pace throughout the summer. I know that your situation is no different. Folks who have never experienced the stress and pressures of senior educational leadership positions often do not appreciate how hard and demanding our job is. For me, the past two months have afforded me the time to visit with some of you and learn about the depth, breadth and variety of your programs and services. I wish I could have visited with more of you but am committed to completing all of my visits this fall so that I will have had the privilege of seeing your collaborative in action. I know that I will continue to be impressed with the diversity of your approaches and your collective commitment to provide the very highest quality services to the children and adults you serve. I also spent some time at the state house through the intercession of our lobbyist Julie Cox who enabled me to spread the collaborative message to key policy makers and elected officials. In addition, I met with Associate Education Commissioner, Julianne Dow who is very interested in the work that you do and is interested in partnering with us in the provision of services and expertise across the Commonwealth. I believe that you and MOEC have a bright future and I am excited to be a part of it.

I am pleased to announce that our conversations with Northeastern University will result in a series of four professional development workshops designed for the thirty of us. The theme of the series will be “Team Building through Marketing.” The programs will be conducted by Dr. Paul Harrington, the Director of the Center for Market Studies at Northeastern and assisted by Carol Doherty, the Director for the Institute for Professional Development. **Please save the dates of November 9 and December 7 from 9am-1pm** so that you can participate in these important team building and professional learning opportunities. Two subsequent sessions are being scheduled for February and March and as soon as those dates are finalized I will share them with you. The intent of the workshops is to enable each of us whether we are new to or experienced in our position to better understand the markets we serve, the opportunities the future will present, and the resources necessary to match our vision with the realities of the marketplace. I am confident that you will find Paul an engaging, knowledgeable, and articulate presenter whose enthusiastic and occasionally irreverent style is infectious. I urge you to mark your calendar so that you can join your colleagues in this important MOEC professional development opportunity.

I also want to take this opportunity to also welcome our new colleagues: Ms Susan Rees at Accept, Dr Edward McCaul at CAPS (effective October 1), Ms. Teresa Watts at CASE, Dr. Marco Rodrigues at Central Mass, Ms Dorsey Yearly at EDCO, Mr. Patric Barbieri at LABBB, Mr. John Fletcher and Ms. Donna Goodell at MEC, Ms. Beth Gonyea at Southern Worcester County, Ms. Catherine Cooper at Southeastern Mass, as well as Dr. Mike Palladino who briefly retired from Accept to return as Executive Director at CHARMS. The newly appointed Directors have been invited to meet with and be welcomed by the MOEC Board at their September 24 meeting. I know that you will join me in welcoming them and provide whatever support, encouragement and

guidance you can. The MOEC Directory has gone to the printer and will be mailed to you shortly after Labor Day. In closing, I wish you much success this year and I look forward to our work together.

Have a wonderful Labor Day and opening of the school year !!!

Best wishes, Steve