

## **Superintendent's Student and Staff Accomplishments August 21, 2019**

**Governor's Press Conference:** Pocono Mountain School District had the honor of hosting a press conference for Governor Wolf last week where he announced his proposal to change the Charter School Law. We held the press conference in the Pocono Mountain West High School Library and Dr. Wade welcomed our guests. I was offered the opportunity to present comments during the press conference on the need for Charter School Law reform in accountability, transparency and funding, especially in how tuition rates are based upon the sending school district's budget, not the operating costs of the charter and cyber schools.

**School Safety Update:** Beth DeLay, the Director of Health/Physical Education, Guidance and Nursing Services, updated the school safety go bags over the summer, to ensure the bags are ready for teachers and staff at the start of the school year. A new item for the go bags are lifesaving Stop-the-Bleed kits donated to the District by Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono. In addition to the safety go bags, Officer Jason Wile, School Resource Officer from Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department, and Brad Pensyl, the Executive Director of Student and Support Staff Services and the District School Safety and Security Coordinator, conducted safety assessments of all schools and other District buildings in July. The safety assessments are confidential but are used by our administrators to prioritize and improve school safety measures.

**Teacher's First Day:** Today was our first day back for our professional staff for the 2019-2020 school year. Everyone is excited to bring our students back and start the new school year on Monday.

**Open Houses & Orientations:** Our school open houses and new student orientations are underway this week in all of our schools as we prepare for the first day of school.

**Backpack Donation:** Americold in Gouldsboro generously donated 100 new backpacks filled with school supplies and toiletry items to Pocono Mountain School District to help economically disadvantaged students start the school year with supplies. I gratefully accepted the backpacks and want to thank Mr. William Kline, an East Junior HS Math Teacher and Girls Volleyball Head Coach for picking up the backpacks. The backpacks will be provided to students at Clear Run Elementary Center, Clear Run Intermediate School and Pocono Mountain West Junior High School.