

Mundy brings positive vibe to Centennial

By Gary Weckselblatt Staff Writer | Posted: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 11:00 pm

One year to the day she was hired as superintendent of Centennial schools, Joyce Mundy explained what she's learned in the past 12 months and then laid out the district's goals for the future.

Her journey of meetings and conversations, which she calls her "entry plan," guided her in mapping out the district's commitments, which she summarized at William Tennent High School on Wednesday night.

Audience members, which primarily included area residents and district officials, must have liked what they heard. One yelled out "wonderful," following Mundy's presentation.

Al Hertenberger, of Southampton, said bluntly, "I've lived here for 58 years, and you're a sight for sore eyes."

A school board member from 2000 to 2003, Hertenberger said the district has "gone downhill" for several years. "I've been hoping someone would come along who can straighten things out because we haven't been going in the right direction."

He believes Mundy can turn things around. "She appears to have the ability to bring people together," he said.

Mundy said her proudest accomplishment this year "is that we're all here together."

Students, a school board member, district principals and administrators each spoke before Mundy was handed the microphone. Several used the words synergy and momentum to describe the district.

Mundy spoke of her "aggressive attempts" to get as many perspectives as possible "so that we can start to define where to go from here."

Mundy met with stakeholders within the schools and outside groups including parents, civic organizations and the townships where the nearly 6,000 district students live.

"It was a pretty intense schedule the first few months to invite everybody in," she said. "It's a wonderful way to integrate all of the different perspectives."



Framework for the Future of the Centennial school district

Centennial Superintendent Joyce Mundy addresses the Framework for the Future of the school district during a forum Wednesday in Warminster.

Her “Framework for the Future,” the essentials for a sturdy foundation, include:

Leadership team support and participation.

Dynamic educational programs.

A positive school environment that creates an optimal setting for teaching and learning.

Innovation to inspire.

In her blueprint for a three-year comprehensive plan, Mundy spoke about fiscally sound decisions, a clear focus with shared priorities, a connection to communities and innovation.

“This is a tremendous school district,” she said. “I am amazed at the quality of students, teachers, administrators.”

Mundy, who has worked in Council Rock, New Hope-Solebury and Souderton, said, “this is truly the most exceptional group of people I have worked with, and I say that with all sincerity.”

Jennifer Polinchock, the district’s director of teaching and learning, commended Mundy for “visionary leadership.”

Mark Miller, vice president of the school board, said the district has had missteps, but it helped put us back in the best direction. ... One of best things I did for my children was give them an education in the Centennial School District.”

Giana Asterito, a senior who will be studying broadcast journalism at Syracuse University, said “I’ve been given an extraordinary education, and I plan to leave my mark on the world.”

She said several of her teachers were like life coaches. “They impacted my life in the best way.”

Hertenberger, the former school board member, envisions Mundy as the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel.

“I think things will work out if the teachers get on board with her,” he said.