

Education Foundation for the West York Area School District

- *By: Mr. Rodney Drawbaugh, Board President*

Like all Districts within the state, the West York Area School District (WYASD) faces the prospect of tighter budgets moving forward. In an effort to be proactive, the District has assisted in the formation of an educational foundation. The purpose of the Foundation is to secure private, tax-deductible donations and grant money to help fund District programs and resources. The Foundation will operate as an independent entity from the District and receive its governance from its own Board of Directors. Naturally, the Foundation will work in a strong collaborative effort with the School District's Board. I am honored that the District's Board of Directors elected me to serve as its first representative on the Foundation's Board. I look forward to working side-by-side with **Mr. Larry Richardson, Mr. Joseph Connolly, Ms. Lori Toth, Mr. Mark Keim, and Mr. Thomas Eyster**, who are all members of the community and are parents of current or former West York students. Mr. Eyster is also a West York alumnus and retired teacher. Administrators from the District have agreed to serve on the Foundation's Board to assist in providing information and guidance as needed. **Dr. Emile Lonardi**, Superintendent; **Mr. George Fike**, Business Manager; and **Mr. David Peck**, Assistant Business Manager, agreed to serve in this capacity.

The Foundation will be actively seeking corporate support through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC). Mr. Richardson was elected President of the Foundation Board. Mr. Connolly was elected Vice President, and he will chair the Fund Development Committee which will focus heavily on the EITC program as well as identifying major funding sources. Ms. Toth was elected Secretary, and she will chair the Publication and Marketing Committee. Mr. Eyster will chair the Alumni Committee, and Mr. Peck will serve as Treasurer. As the Foundation grows, we anticipate needing other committees, including an Audit & Finance Committee and Allocations Committee. That is where you come in! We are in need of volunteers to organize and serve on various committees to help us market the Foundation and attract benefactors, as well as develop action plans. If you are a member of the WYASD community and have a passion for providing students with enhanced programs, we encourage you to call us at (717) 792-2796 for more information on volunteering, or email us at bulldogmail@wyasd.k12.pa.us.