

THANK YOU FOR THE INTRODUCTION, DR. BIERWIRTH. IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE WITH OUR BOARD OF EDUCATION, ADMINISTRATION, AND **MY** HTA COLLEAGUES AS WE WELCOME THE START OF YET ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR.

WHILE THIS IS MY VERY FIRST SUPT. CONFERENCE, AS HTA PRESIDENT, FOR 25 YEARS I SAT IN THE AUDIENCE, JUST LIKE YOU ARE DOING RIGHT NOW, AND WHEN I WAS IN YOUR SEAT -- I WAS ALWAYS ANXIOUS FOR THE PROGRAM TO WRAP UP SO I COULD RUSH BACK TO MY BUILDING TO FINISH PREPARING FOR ANOTHER EXCITING YEAR AT HERRICKS. SO WITH THAT IN MIND, I PROMISE TO BE VERY BRIEF. OR, LIKE ELIZABETH TAYLOR SAID TO HER 5TH HUSBAND, "DON'T WORRY.... I WON'T KEEP YOU TOO LONG."

WE HAVE MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO AS WE START THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR. THIS DISTRICT, AS EVER, CONTINUES TO **EXEMPLIFY** EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION, AND THAT IS **WHY** WE REMAIN ONE OF LONG ISLAND'S MOST SUCCESSFUL AND HIGHLY RATED SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

AS THE NEW HTA PRESIDENT, ALLOW ME ONE MOMENT TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY MEMBERS - THE TEACHERS, ASSISTANTS, AIDES, CLERICAL STAFF, CUSTODIANS, BUS DRIVERS GROUNDCREW AND ALL STAFF WHO ARE THE BACKBONE, HEART AND SOUL OF HERRICKS. HERRICKS IS, IN MY MIND, AN EDUCATIONAL **BRAND**. A BRAND THAT HAS BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND ACHIEVEMENT. THIS REMARKABLE SUCCESS IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE DEDICATION, PERSEVERANCE AND PROFESSIONALISM THAT **MY** MEMBERS EXHIBIT EVERY DAY, AND I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK OUR HERRICKS BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION. I HAVE **ALSO** SEEN FIRST HAND AS A LONG TIME TEACHER, AND MORE RECENTLY AS AN HTA OFFICIAL, **YOUR** DEDICATION, PERSEVERANCE AND PROFESSIONALISM. I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE OUR COLLECTIVE GOAL OF PROVIDING AN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION FOR OUR STUDENTS AND HELPING

THEM SUCCEED AS WE MAINTAIN EXCELLENCE REGARDLESS OF STATE ASSESSMENTS AND MANDATES.

WE HAVE MUCH TO BE PROUD OF. EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM **NOT ONLY** SURVIVED THE FIRST YEAR OF APPR AND PREPARATIONS FOR COMMON CORE IMPLIMENTATION, WE MET THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSESSMENTS. OUR STUDENTS ACHIEVED AMONG THE **HIGHEST** SCORES IN THE STATE. GOING FORWARD, I AM NOT SAYING THAT MEETING STATE ASSESSMENT STANDARDS WILL BE EASIER. BUT WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT WE ALL MET THE CHALLENGES. AND FOR THAT I CONGRATULATE YOU.

HAVING SPENT A GOOD PORTION OF THE SUMMER WORKING COOPERATIVELY WITH ADMINISTRATION TO **FINALLY** GET THIS YEAR'S APPR APPROVED BY THE STATE, I REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT WE WORK TOGETHER.

I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE MANY CHALLENGES THAT AWAIT US THIS YEAR CAN BE MET WITH OPEN DIALOGUE, COOPERATION AND **JOINT** COMPROMISE. I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE BOARD AS WE BEGIN CONVERSATIONS LATER THIS YEAR TO DISCUSS OUR CONTRACT.

WHEN I RAN FOR HTA PRESIDENT I RAN ON A PLATFORM OF COOPERATION, COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION -- AND WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RESTATE THAT PLEDGE TO YOU TODAY. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU IN YOUR BUILDINGS ON A REGULAR BASIS AND IF YOU EVER NEED ME, REGARDING ANY MATTER BE IT BIG OR SMALL, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME AT ANY TIME. MY DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN. I WISH YOU GOOD LUCK AND **KNOW** THAT YOUR HARD WORK AND PERSEVERENCE WILL RESULT IN **MUCH** SUCCESS FOR OUR STUDENTS.

LET ME FINISH BY STATING, "I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT THANKS TO YOU, I **AM** --- AND **WILL ALWAYS BE** --- **PROUD TO BE A HERRICKS TEACHER.**"