Dear Colleagues:

A demanding and challenging school year is drawing to a close. Before we breathe a huge sigh of relief and launch into the summer break, I think that it is fitting to take a moment to reflect on some of the academic and other achievements that have taken place throughout the district this school year.

However, we must keep in mind that we still have many challenges needing our utmost attention, with the most urgent and immediate being that we all continue to encourage our senior students who still need to pass their OGT tests to remain positive, continue to study, take practice tests, and attend the intervention and tutoring opportunities the district is providing this summer to help them pass! As we all know, dreams delayed does not necessarily mean dreams denied!

I want everyone to know that it has been my pleasure serving the district as interim superintendent. It is my hope to continue to work in the district in a leadership capacity. We will wait to see how things turn out.

So, enjoy your summer break and take the time to rest and enjoy your families. I am proud of the work you are doing as it is truly moving the district forward. Please take time to review the summary below of just a few of those achievements reached this school year. Keep up the good work!

- The **Class of 2016** is comprised of 295 seniors, of which:
  - 160 seniors comprised the first class of YSTAR Scholars and earned $443,000 in scholarships from The Youngstown Foundation
  - 30 Youngstown Early College graduates received their associate degrees and 2 are working on their bachelor degrees
  - 5 seniors in The Ohio State University Young Scholars Program (2 from YEC, 3 from Chaney STEM/VPA) will graduate from the program; 4 have been awarded 4-year financial packages at OSU; the 5th student opted to attend the University of Toledo

- **District-Wide Test Scores** in K-3 Literacy measures improved from a previous score of 47.8% to 64.2%, resulting in a 16.4% increase and grade of “C”, narrowly missing a “B”, which starts at 64.9%

- **Paul C. Bunn Elementary** was 1 of 3 area schools to earn an “A” in K-3 Grade Literacy measures

- **All Elementary Schools** improved at least one grade level or sustained their literacy performance with grades of “B or C”

- **Choffin Career & Technical Center** earned an “A” in Technical Skill Attainment measures

- **Choffin Career & Technical Center’s Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE) Program** earned an average overall performance score of 83%, exceeding the state’s average overall percentage of 62%. The program also achieved all of the Educational Functioning Levels (EFL) for FY 2015

- **Chaney High School** earned a National Charter Membership in the National Speech & Debate Association

- **Chaney STEM** had 3 juniors win a $1000 award in the State Believe in Ohio Competition for their STEM Commercialization Plan on a customizable 3D printed prosthetic leg

- **Chaney VPA** students earned college credits at YSU while attending their high school classes
Discovery @ Kirkmere partnered with Second Harvest and Gleaners Food Bank to help feed more than 500 people as part of a service project for 5th and 6th grade students.

Discovery @ Volney students received “Best Extras Award” on their video production of “A Voice for the Broken” at the Operation Keepsake, Inc., 3rd Annual Friends4Friends Film Festival.

East High School – Army Junior ROTC, placed 1st Place – Knockout Championship, 4th Place Raider Team & 4th Place – Drill Team at the Lincoln West Drill Competition and the school’s Destination Imagination students qualified for Global Finals in Knoxville, Tennessee.

East High School – Selina Cotton is selected the “2016 – Master Teacher”.

Martin Luther King Elementary School Pre-School receives “5-Star Rating” as part of the Ohio Department of Education’s “Step Up to Quality Onsite Review”.

McGuffey Elementary – Hannah Wine is selected the “2016 – Teacher of the Year”.

Parent Pathways honored 265 parents nominated for their volunteerism in our schools.

Rayen Early College Middle School students participated in the YMCA Youth Delegation that guided new Gun Law to Passage in Columbus.

Youngstown Early College met 13 of 14 possible indicators achieving an “A”, was named among the best high schools in the country in college readiness by U.S. News & World Report, and:
- #1 – Urban Schools Graduation Rate
- Top 25 Urban Schools Performance Index
- Grade A – Performance/Student Graduation Rates
- Grade B – Overall Performance Index Grade
- High Performing School of Honor
- High Performing School of Promise

Youngstown Business & Education Community Connections, a new state-funded mentoring program, enrolls 135 students and 75 mentors.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Stohla
Interim Superintendent
Youngstown City Schools