Jamie Cain editorial

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**Celebrating Success at Port Huron Schools**

It’s exciting to have our students and staff back in our buildings. If you did not get a chance to see our PHS-TV “Back to School” video, I encourage you to visit our [www.phasd.us](http://www.phasd.us) website and view it. It’s great to see the warm welcomes and smiling faces of our educators as your children return to Port Huron Schools. We have a lot to smile about these days and appreciate the positive momentum the community has provided to our organization as we build another year.

You may have also heard two of our teachers and one of our paraprofessionals on the radio this month, with messages about why they love their students and teaching. Those audio clips are also available to listen to on our website. They are delivered by our 2016 Advocator, Innovator and Educator of the Year award recipients, Nancy Smith, Kirsten Greene and Tammy Longuski respectively. Another year brings another opportunity to identify and honor our educators, and I encourage you to do so through the “Staff Recognition” tab under “Parents” on www.phasd.us.

Throughout the year, we recognize our exceptional staff at our monthly Board of Education meetings. We appreciate the support of Brenda Johnston from Insurance Specialists Agency of Marysville, our local MEEMIC agent and the Port Huron Prowlers in this effort.

This month, we are recognizing Jeff Marquardt for his exemplary service to our district as a member of our operations team. We will also honor two Michigamme Elementary students - the Bezenah sisters Madison and Isabella - for their summer efforts to fundraise on behalf of less fortunate students at their school.

Partnerships with the community and advocating for each other has become a regular part of our organization at Port Huron Schools. We are looking forward to the ultimate example of this as we begin to release plans to deliver the promises of the bond that was passed this summer. Planning committees have been organized and a drafted timeline will be outlined at our Board of Education meeting on Monday, September 19. The district leadership looks forward to this process of continuing to collaborate with staff and community members as we “build the district of tomorrow, today.”

Our communication updates on the bond and our district’s developments are key to showing our transparency. Our website [www.phasd.us](http://www.phasd.us) will continue to present announcements, plans, images and news on our work.

Whether it’s the progress we have made as an organization and the excitement of creating the plans for the bond, or taking a moment to recognize people who are making our district outstanding on a daily basis; it’s important to reflect on where we have been, where we are currently and where we are going. Join me in celebrating our progress and success as we begin the 2016-17 school year.