January 4, 2020

Dear Trustees,

Happy New Year and welcome to the 20’s!

As many of you are aware, the Governor’s office distributed paperwork to reappoint or appoint approximately 45 individuals to the trustee positions that had expired prior to July 1, 2019. At this time, I do not know how many individuals were reappointed or how many new trustees will be joining our ranks. Hopefully, the Governor’s Office will complete the vetting process of these applications and forward the final list to the Senate in the next week or two and the Senate will move quickly to confirm the nominations.

Once these appointments are confirmed, I believe the Governor’s Office will begin working on the remaining 25 positions that expired in the second half of 2019. However, I do not have a timetable for those nominations.

The PACT Committee Officers had a teleconference in late December to begin preparations for the Spring PACT Conference that will be held on April 23 and 24 in Harrisburg. Jack Wabby (Kutztown) and Milissa Bauer (Clarion) are leading the planning efforts for this event. Based on the discussions during that call, I think there will be some very worthwhile sessions at the conference. You will be receiving registration information in the near future.

In December I shared some information about the legislative efforts dealing with ACT 188 that are underway in Harrisburg. Co-sponsorship memos intended to achieve the necessary reforms to advance the System Redesign effort were circulated through the House.
The three-bill legislative package, sponsored by Representatives Sonney, Topper, and Schroeder, addressed governance and accountability provisions; financial and legal shortcomings; and reporting and other statutory requirements.

These bills may go to committee as early as this coming week. Although I have not seen the agenda for the Board of Governors meeting on January 15th and 16th, I expect that there will be some sort of update at that time. If so, I will share it with you in my next update.

That’s it for this month, let me know if you have any issues or concerns.

Stay warm.

Jeff