

LEBANON SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education
Steve Jones, *Chairman*
Andy Brummett
Mark Tomlinson

www.lssd.org
701 Coles Ferry Pike
Lebanon, TN 37087
(615) 449-6060 FAX (615) 449-5673

Director of Schools
Sharon Roberts
Assistant Director of Schools
Randall Hutto

March 11, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jeanne Ray
Phone: (615) 449-6060

Lebanon Special School District Celebrates Accreditation

"You have a school system whose focus is on children; meeting the needs of every child permeates through the entire staff," stated Dave Stipe, AdvancEd Field Consultant and chair of the team of educators who recommended LSSD to be accredited. The school system received the news that the district and all schools are being recommended for national accreditation during a public meeting on March 4, 2009.

"We are very proud of our teachers and staff," remarked Dr. Sharon Roberts, LSSD Director of Schools. "We know our school family is committed to a community of excellence, and we are happy to know that a team of professional educators comprised of members from three states also sees the excellence here."

Being accredited means that all of the schools and district office have been comprehensively reviewed and meet high standards for school systems. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) is an accreditation division of AdvancEd. The three pillars of accreditation are systemic, systematic, and sustainable improvement and are based on a five-year term of accreditation.

The visiting team interviewed a total of 174 stakeholders including school board members, central office staff, school-based administrators, teachers, staff, parents, students, community members and business partners. During a presentation to the school board, visiting evaluators commended the school system for strong stakeholder support, partnerships, commitment to equity in educational opportunity for all students, responsiveness to staff needs and outstanding communication initiatives.

"You have a long list of strengths that we have seen during our visit to your schools and the district," said Dave Stipe during the exit report.

The school system will receive a written report within 30 days which will detail the recommendations for continuous improvement. "We will review the team's recommendations and make a plan to address each area," said Jeanne Ray, Associate Director of Learning.

Recommendations of the visiting team included developing an interviewing and hiring protocol and providing professional development for those responsible for hiring; ensuring that professional development is monitored to determine the impact on improving student performance, and aligning action steps to address targeted students' learning needs.

###
