

Hancock, Wayne Highlands extend agreement

The Hancock Central and Wayne Highlands school districts will extend their contractual agreement to allow Preston Area School students to attend Hancock High School through the 2020-21 academic year.

Each district's Board of Education agreed to the extension, Hancock Central School District Superintendent Terry Dougherty announced Thursday, April 12. As a result, the Wayne Highlands School District will continue to pay tuition to the Hancock Central School District so students from Pennsylvania's Preston Area School may attend Hancock High School in New York.

Hancock is less than 10 miles north of Lakewood, Pennsylvania, and therefore offers the closest high school option for Preston Area School students. The Hancock Central School District has welcomed students from the Wayne Highlands School District for more than 40 years. Since the 1994-95 academic year, the relationship has produced no fewer than 20 Pennsylvania students who graduated high school as Valedictorian or Salutatorian.

The support of Mr. Lothar Holbert has been vital to the success of this ongoing relationship. A Pennsylvania resident, Holbert is president of the Wayne Highlands School District Board of Education and a non-voting member of the Hancock Central School District BOE.

"We look forward to continuing our outstanding relationship with the Wayne Highlands School District for many years to come," Dougherty said. "In an era of great uncertainty and change in public education in New York State, Hancock remains grateful to Wayne Highlands for demonstrating tremendous loyalty and a steadfast commitment to providing flexible educational opportunities for families residing in the Preston attendance zone."