



# Laurel Highlands School District

304 Bailey Avenue, Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401  
(724) 437-2821 Fax (724) 437-8929 www.lhsd.org



## *Jesse T. Wallace, III, D.Ed.* Superintendent

**Gregory S. Hensch, C.P.A.**  
*Business Manager  
and Pupil Personnel Services*

**Lori DiCenzo, M.S.**  
*Director of Special Education*

**Randy L. Miller, M.Ed.**  
*Director of Curriculum*

**Eric M. Gaydos, M.Ed**  
*Director of Federal  
Programs/Assistant  
Curriculum/  
Food Service Director*

**Richard Barron**  
*Chief of Police/Security  
Attendance Officer/Discipline Review  
Transportation Director*

**Zachary Just**  
*PIMS Coordinator*

**Nick Gulino**  
*Supervisor of Buildings &  
Grounds*

September 23, 2020

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter of support for Ms. **Carmelle Nickens (Carm)**, and the Rural Arts Collaborative (RAC) project(s) she represents. I have had the opportunity to know Ms. Nickens for approximately five years in both personal and professional arenas. First, on the professional level Ms. Nickens has a firm grasp of her RAC projects and the positive impact those projects have on the students, staff, and community. Her ability to reach all students and incorporate a sense of transformational culture will not go unnoticed. Likewise, all interactions with stakeholders are on professional and positive platforms. I witnessed Ms. Nickens's ability to effectively communicate with staff and students in team and individual environments, traits vital to professional success, and personal fulfillment. Additionally, I know Ms. Nickens has applied and immersed herself in varying levels of RAC work and programs, resulting in great success among all program areas. Her ability to match artists with schools and projects is nothing less than magical. In this vein, I know Ms. Nickens to be a person of high character, professionalism and possess an intrinsic ability to succeed in helping students and schools. Ms. Nickens holds a passion for her work and its success. This passion provided a positive keystone in the foundation for my school district to maintain, build teamwork and collaboration among students, staff, and community. Her artists are nothing less than exemplary. To support Ms. Nickens and her RAC initiatives is to provide our communities with valuable artistic adhesive in these most troubling times. I highly recommend any and all support that can be allocated. On a personal level, I have come to know Ms. Nickens through her RAC programs, Carm's electric personality coupled with her professional background and life experiences make her and her programs a valuable addition to any school district. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jesse T. Wallace, III  
Superintendent  
[jesse.wallace@lhsd.org](mailto:jesse.wallace@lhsd.org)