

Superintendent's Report: December 2021

Highlight of the Month: Good news: our students are starting to venture out and participate in a limited number of learning experiences in the community. I had the wonderful opportunity to join the grade 5 students on their visit to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum. It is an amazing cultural learning location. Our students, with their notebooks, cameras, and inquisitive behaviors, were a delight to be with even though the students beat the adults in a traditional game of ring toss.

News and Notes:

Educational Leadership

- I attended the CABA/CAPSS Convention to remain current with important updates in policy and legislation. Lately, I rarely attend many events, but CABA offers quality learning opportunities for school leaders and board members. I encourage any BOE member who is interested in more information concerning CABA to contact me.
- The administration and the staff continue to make progress on our strategic planning goals, particularly as related to social and emotional learning.
- I continue to reach out to the regional resource centers, EASTCONN and CREC (Capital Region Education Council) for additional support with curriculum development. We have been concentrating our efforts on English/Language Arts. We will begin work on Mathematics in the spring.
- The SDE/DPH continue to provide the school nurses and administration with timely updates concerning recent statistics and updated mitigation strategies regarding COVID-19. The recent uptick in positive cases throughout the State has been an area of concentrated attention. We continue to provide staff and families with updated information.

Facilities:

- We continue to work with EMCOR to determine the causes for the recent shutdowns of our heating system.
- The Town Roof Committee met on November 30. They will meet again on December 7 to decide on the next steps for the project based on updated information concerning architectural and construction costs.

Collaboration and Communication:

- I continue to explore ways to develop our partnership with Eastern, both with respect to program supports for our students as well as a possible source of quality substitutes or interns.
- First Selectman Deb Richards and I met to discuss the current building projects. We also discussed possibilities for a better alignment of Town/School services. We are both looking forward to continued, positive meetings.

Finance:

- The 2022-2023 Budget process is underway. The administration is reviewing the areas of staffing, technology and special projects and receiving input from staff as to their classroom and instructional needs.
- Kymberli continues to monitor and maintain regular communication with the Town regarding our operating and grant budgets. A special shout out to Kymberli: The auditor completed a very positive, error-free Independent Accountant's Report for yearly submission to the SDE.

Comments on selected agenda items

V. Election of Board Officers

At this meeting, the newly formed BOE will elect its slate of officers. The Superintendent will open the meeting and conduct business, including the nomination and election of the BOE Chair. The BOE Chair will then facilitate the nomination and election of the Vice Chair and Secretary and the remainder of the meeting.

- XII. Unfinished Business
- A. through F. Second reading of the named policies. Copies will be resent.
 - G. Discussion and possible action: Regional District 19, E.O. Smith High School Contract: Prior to the meeting, you will receive the updated E.O. Smith contract. It is not anticipated that there will be any major changes from our current contract which you received last month. Last month I also mentioned the automatic renewal of our contract with The Woodstock Academy in February. I am discussing the current contract with the administration of WA. If you have any questions, please forward them to me.
- XIII. New Business
- A. Committee Appointments: The Chair will entertain volunteers for each of these committees. If there are none, the Chair may appoint members. I have attached bylaw 9133 for your review. A brief description of the BOE subcommittees is attached.
 - B. Approval of ESSER II Special Education Recovery Activities Grant submission: This is a recently released special grant designed to support learning delays in the areas of special education and related services, such as speech and language. A “shout out” to Mary Jo for successfully completing this grant in accordance with the accelerated timeline.
 - C. Preliminary School Calendar 2022-2023: Prior to the meeting, you will receive a copy of the proposed 2022-2023 school calendar, recommended by the administration, with staff input, for review and discussion. The BOE does not need to approve the calendar at this meeting.
 - D. Budget 2022-2023, Discussion following Citizens’ input meeting: This is an opportunity for the BOE to review any comments or input received at the 5:30 special budget meeting.
- XV. Financial Reports
- A. and B. If possible, please send me any specific questions you may have on the monthly disbursement and financial summary prior to the meeting.
 - C. Budget Transfers: Due to an increase in the need for paraprofessional substitutes we are requesting the transfer listed below. This increase is due to unanticipated paraprofessional support services, paraprofessional absences, as well as the need for substitute services while awaiting the interview and hiring of permanent paraprofessionals. This transfer will cover our estimate of needed service at this time.
\$15,000 from Salary,Para,SE (100.1200.3.112.00.5)to Substitutes,Non-Cert,SE (100.1200.3.121.03.5)