

## Superintendent's Report: February 2022

Highlight of the Month: The Sounds of Music coming into my office from the classroom is a welcome reminder as to why, amid the issues presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, an aging facility, and the onset of winter weather, I continue to remain passionately committed to the process of providing quality educational programming for the students in Eastford.

### News and Notes:

#### Educational Leadership

- This seems to be the season of meetings: Finance, Facilities, and the Town Roof Committee. Policy will meet on February 16 and Curriculum will be scheduling a meeting prior to the end of February.
- We currently contract with EastConn to provide Carole and the EES staff with professional support in the areas of English/Language Arts, Mathematics and Social/Emotional learning. I continue to work with the EastConn leadership to arrange for and monitor these services. These services are aligned with our Strategic plan and include targeted support for new staff members in English/Language Arts; development of an English/Language Arts curriculum; facilitation of the work of the school-based mathematics committee; and workshop sessions and follow up support related to social/emotional learning and restorative practices.
- I continue to work with Nurse Roto to review and disseminate updates from the State related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We recently entered a limited, grant-funded agreement, with a professional psychologist to work with our MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) committee and our school counselor to provide targeted support in addressing the range of the social and emotional related needs of our students, families, and staff.
- Thanks to the efforts of Mary Jo Chretien, we have updated the job description of the Director of Pupil Services. A copy is included in your packet. We will be posting the vacancies for an elementary teacher and the Director of Pupil Services on the CT Reap website. We continue to post the vacancy for an art teacher.

#### Facilities:

- Although much reduced, we continue to have issues with our new heating system. We remain in contact with EMCOR to resolve these issues.
- We continue to experience, to this date, minor leaks in our roof. The Town Roof Committee met on January 25 and is scheduled to meet on February 8. At the meeting on February 8, the committee will receive updated information from the architect regarding the three components of the roof project: 1. partial roof replacement, 2. attic insulation, and 3. a photovoltaic project. Rob Ellsworth, the chair of the Town Roof Committee, may have additional information to share regarding the work of the committee.
- The Facilities Committee of the BOE met to review and recommend the long-term capital plan included in this packet.
- Our school safety and security plan was approved by the State –a “shout out” to Carole McCombe and her committee for updating this plan.

#### Collaboration and Communication:

- Deb Richards and I continue to share information and resources regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. We have also been in regular communication regarding the work of the Town Roof Committee.

#### Finance:

- The most updated copy of the proposed BOE 2022-23 budget, included in your packet, is the result of work done by the Finance Committee at their January 27 and February 3 meetings.
- Due to increase demands for substitutes, we increased the substitute pay for substitutes holding a valid teaching certificate to \$130 per day through June 2022.
- Kymberli is in the process of reviewing all the recent service charges received from EMCOR.

#### Comments on the Agenda:

- X. Unfinished Business
  - A. Discussion and Possible Action: Capital Plan

Included in this packet is the updated Long Term Capital Plan recommended by the BOE Facilities Committee. As you know, except for projects approved for funding by the Town in a specific year, the rest of the plan is a fluid and ever-changing document. Pending approval by the BOE this plan will be shared with the members of the LOCIP Committee at its meeting on February 12. Rob Ellsworth, the chair of the Facilities Committee, may have additional comments to make at the meeting regarding this plan.

B. Discussion and Possible Action: Budget 2022-2023

Included in your packet is the updated version of the BOE budget reviewed by the BOE Finance Committee at its meeting on February 3. The BOE can decide to accept the budget as is or make further changes. The Budget is due to the Town by February 18.

XI. New Business

A. Discussion and Possible Action: Non-resident Tuition

The BOE Policy 5118, Non-Resident Students, addresses the conditions of attendance by non-residents, including non-resident attendance with tuition. Every June, the BOE also votes on the fee for tuition that is referenced in this policy. This amount is based on the calculated costs for regular education students attending EES. The fee for school year 2021-22 is currently \$15,218.68. At its meeting, the BOE can choose to keep the policy as is or ask the BOE Policy Committee for further review and recommendation.

B. Discussion and Possible Action: Woodstock Academy contract

Included in your packet is the most updated version of the contract with Woodstock Academy. The contract automatically renews unless action is taken 180 days prior to the expiration of the agreement.

C. EES Five Year Plan

We have been asked to submit a five-year expenditure plan to the Town each year, together with our annual BOE budget. Attached is an updated plan for your review and discussion.

XII. Financial Reports

We are currently not requesting any transfers. As always, if there are any questions regarding the disbursement or financial summary reports, please send them to me prior to the meeting so answers can be provided at the meeting.