

## Superintendent's Report: March 2022

Highlight of the Month: March is Connecticut Board of Education Member Appreciation month. I would like to give a "shout out" to our Board of Education for their dedication to serving the Eastford Learning Community. The members of the Eastford BOE share the common goal of providing a positive learning environment for our children in Eastford. When they take the oath to serve as a member of our Board of Education, they assume the responsibility for setting policy and supporting the vision to provide every one of Eastford's children with the very best opportunities to experience educational success and the necessary preparation for a productive and fulfilling life in our changing world.

### News and Notes:

#### Educational Leadership

- I provided support and guidance to Policy Committee as they continue to develop updated policies and regulations responsive to current legislation and the needs of the Eastford learning community.
- I provided support to the Curriculum Committee of the BOE, Carole and her staff through the budgeting of sufficient dollars and the securing of consultant support to provide the professional support and instructional materials to move forward with the goals outlined in our Strategic Planning document for the 2021-22 school year.
- Carole, Mary Jo and I met with Deb Richards (CREC consultant) and Sonia Greene (psychologist) to discuss strategies to provide the levels of support needed to move forward in addressing the varied social and emotional learning needs of our students.
- Carole, Cassie and I met to review all the guidance from the State level agencies to develop and disseminate the health policies and protocols for Eastford school that accompanied the lifting of the mask wearing mandate on March 1 for the students and staff at Eastford Elementary School.

#### Facilities:

- Although improved, we continue to have issues with our boilers. I continue to work with Paul Torcellini, Chair of the Boiler Committee, and the leadership of EMCOR and Service Station to resolve these issues.
- I continue to attend all meetings associated with the roof project for Eastford Elementary School. I am in the process of gathering all documents and information required to complete the State Construction application, which has an end date of March 10.

#### Collaboration and Communication:

- The decision to lift to the mask mandate in the Town of Eastford and Eastford Elementary School was the result of collaborative communication and sharing of resources with Deb Richards, First Selectman. All information regarding changes regarding health policies and procedures regarding the lifting of the mask mandate was shared in a timely fashion with all members of the school and local community.
- Deb Richards and I also attended the meetings of the Town Roof Committee to plan for the Town hearing and meeting. Thanks to the positive vote and the support of the Eastford community, we can move forward on the roof project for Eastford Elementary School.

#### Finance:

- Kymberli and I have been monitoring the current and projected status of the 2021-22 budget. We have had some changes in our staffing, student population and facility needs that form the basis of the transfer requests being proposed for review by the BOE.

#### Comments on selected agenda items

#### X. Unfinished Business

##### A. Discussion and Possible Action: Woodstock Academy Contract

This is a continued item from our last meeting. The BOE needs to review and act with respect to the changes in the updated five-year contract.

#### XI. New Business

##### A. Approve Eighth Grade trip to Washington, D.C. May 17-20, 2022

We are pleased that our grade eight students, with your approval and pending no significant changes in the local, state, or national health landscape, will be able to participate in a trip to Washington, D.C. this

year. Carole has spent much time working on the logistics of this trip that she will review with you at the meeting.

B. Resignation of English/Language Arts Teacher

Our first-year teacher of English/Language Arts has resigned from his employment in Eastford at the close of this school year. He accepted another offer of employment.

C. Policy 5118, Non-Resident Students, first reading

The Policy Committee closely reviewed the non-resident student tuition and the possible addition of providing a discounted base tuition rate for the children and grandchildren of staff at Eastford Elementary School. They are providing to the full BOE a revised draft policy for your further review and consideration. Recommendations for your review include:

- a. Replacing the current Policy 5118, Non-Resident Students, with the sample (modified for Eastford) provided by Shipman & Goodwin.
- b. Place the evidence of residency—review of residency and the hearing sections of the current Policy 5118—as a document on the parent section of the website.
- c. Offer a tuition reduction to all children and grandchildren of full time employees, based on their years of service.

D. Repeal Bylaws 9010, 9012, 9020, 9150 and 9214, first reading

E. Repeal current Bylaw 9000, Role of Board Members (Powers, Purposes, Duties) and replace with the S&G Model Policy, Role of Board and Members, first reading

F. Repeal Bylaw 9121, Board of Education Officers and replace with S&G Model policies, Officers, Official Duties -Chairperson, Official Duties- Vice-Chairperson and Official Duties- Secretary, first reading

G. Repeal Bylaw 9133, Committees and Advisory Committees, and replace with S&G Model Policy, Committees, first reading

H. Repeal Bylaw 9221 Vacancies and replace with S&G model policy, Filling Vacancies on the Board, first reading

I. Retain Bylaws: 9131, 9141 and 9220, first reading

Items D.-I. As discussed previously, the Policy Committee is engaged in the process of reviewing the Bylaws of the BOE. The recommendations for repeal, replacement and retention of the Bylaws listed above are the result of this review to date. Lauren will provide you with additional information regarding these proposed changes to these bylaws at the meeting.

### XIII. Financial Reports

A. February 2022 Disbursements (sent via email)

B. Monthly Financial Summary, February 2022

As always if there are any questions regarding the disbursements or financial summary reports, please send them to me prior to the meeting so answers can be provided at the meeting.

C. Budget Transfers

As noted above, there have been changes in staff salaries, student population, and facility needs since the 2021-22 budget was approved. New staff was hired at lower salaries than the staff who resigned, students moved, placements and/or high school choices changed, we had an increase in facility needs, town policy called for us to pay the architect for the roof project, our legal fees have increased in response to specific student and staff issues and the changing landscape of the pandemic. Some of the minor adjustments allow us to clean up selected lines in the budget.

The following transfers are being recommended for your review and possible action:

\$20,000 from 100.1000.1.111.00.5 (Salary, Teachers Regular) to 100.1000.1.121.00.5 (Substitutes, Certified)  
\$50,000 from 100.1000.1.111.00.5 (Salary, Teachers Regular) to 100.2600.1.340.00.5 (Purch Svc, Maintenance)  
\$12,000 from 100.1200.3.112.00.5 (Salary, Para, SE) to 100.1200.3.121.03.5 (Substitutes, Non-Certified, SE)  
\$10,000 from 100.1200.3.122.02.5 (Summer School, SE Para) to 100.2310.1.340.00.5 (Purch Svc, BOE Legal)  
\$2,400 from 100.1200.3.122.01.5 (Summer School, SE Teachers) to 100.2310.1.340.00.5 (Purch Svc, BOE Legal)  
\$13,870.70 from 100.1000.2.561.33.5 (Tuition, Secondary, EOS) with:  
\$4,153.09 to 100.2140.3.323.00.5 (Purch Svc, Eval/Consults); \$160.00 to 100.2190.3.323.00.5 (Purch Services, OT); \$80.00 to 100.2190.3.323.01.5 (Purch Services, PT); \$377.00 to 100.2130.1.330.00.5 (Purch Svc, School Physician); \$208.15 to 100.2600.1.421.00.5 (Refuse Removal); \$3,164.40 to 100.2310.1.522.00.5 (Insc, Cyber Liability); \$2,000 to 100.1000.1.611.03.5 (Supplies, Paper, Agendas); \$1,972.17 to 100.1000.1.611.07.5 (Supply, Music); \$59.52 to 100.2150.3.611.02.5 (Supply, Speech/Language); \$700.00 to 100.1000.1.690.00.5 (Supply, Graduation); \$829.24 to 100.2220.1.731.00.5 (Equipment, Media) and \$167.13 to 100.2600.1.734.00.5 (Equipment, Building Plant)