

Superintendent's Report: May 2022

Highlight of the Month: Since 1984, the National PTA has designated the first full week in May as the time to honor individuals who lend their passion and skills to educating children. At EES we take advantage of this special opportunity to send a SHOUT OUT to the entire staff of Eastford Elementary School for the phenomenal efforts they make every day for all the students and families.

News and Notes:

Educational Leadership

- I continue to support the review and implementation of our curriculum programs. Carole and I are meeting with the team of professionals from EastConn that have been supporting attainment of our long-range Strategic Planning goals. This review will help us to evaluate progress and plan for the support needed to continue to move forward.
- The announcement of our second STEM summer program in collaboration with Mystic Aquarium was sent out to families (copy included). In addition to the receipt of federal dollars, this program was made possible due to the enthusiasm and willingness of Candice Mead to lead this program for a second summer.

Facilities:

- I am concerned that we have not yet received formal communication regarding our application for the roof construction project. Paul Jorgenson and I both reached out to the State Construction office concerning the delay.
- I was in contact with Jeff Paige, plumber, to discuss and receive estimates on some corrective plumbing projects.

Collaboration and Communication:

- Our third grade class participated in an author talk with the third grade students at Scotland Elementary School. Both classes read the book, 21 Elephants and Still Standing, by April Prince before attending the program. The teachers and students enjoyed the opportunity to meet new friends and learn more about the process of writing a book. The teachers hope to do another book share/author talk by the end of the year. A shout out to Lori Crocker-Lincoln for taking advantage of this opportunity for her students.
- I attended the May 4 meeting of the oil consortium. Currently, the oil pricing is still fluctuating at a much higher cost. It is hoped that prices will stabilize and drop before a lock-in becomes essential. The group will meet again on June 1.
- A component of the recent after school grant funding is targeted for outreach to families and community members. In partnership with the Congregational Church of Eastford, we are offering a family workshop on May 23 starting at 5:15 PM. Please see the enclosed flyer for details. On June 1, using funds from the same grant source, families have been invited to a Family Game night. A shout out to Candice Mead and Jennifer Barlow for making this event possible. A copy of this flyer is also included in your packet.

Finance:

- We will review the status of the 2021-22 budget as an agenda item at this meeting.
- The 2022-23 BOE budget will be presented to the Town on May 23 at 7:00 PM. The Town vote is scheduled for June 6 at 7:00 PM. Both events will take place at EES. It is important to note that since the BOE approved their budget, oil prices and insurance costs have increased. We have also been carefully monitoring the end of year increase in special education programming costs for some of our students for next year.

Comments on selected agenda items

XI. Unfinished Business

A.-E. Bylaws second reading

These items are scheduled for a second reading and BOE decision to repeal, replace, or retain existing Bylaws. As noted in the previous BOE packet, we are asking the BOE to vote on the retained items so that the review date in the BOE Policy book can be updated.

XII. New Business

A. Approval of Scholarship Recipients 2022

The Scholarship Committee made recommendations of awardees to the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut. The BOE is voting in support of the Committee's decisions regarding the recommended awards. The identity of the recipients is not announced until the recipients receive the letter of award from the Community Foundation.

B. Revise Policy 5144, Administration of Student Medication in the Schools, first reading

This policy is being updated to include the procedures and protocols surrounding the administration of Naloxone (Narcan). Since this draft policy was developed, legislation was passed that mandates the use of Naloxone in schools. This draft will be updated to reflect this change once the changed model policy is received from Shipman and Goodwin.

C. -F. First reading of the next set of Bylaws reviewed by the Policy Committee.

This is another set of Bylaws for the BOE to review. Lauren will provide you with additional information regarding the proposed changes to these bylaws at the meeting.

G. Review current 2021-22 Budget

As in any given year, there have been some unanticipated changes in expenditures. This year some of these changes (decreases) were substantial. Some were related to the restrictions of the pandemic – e.g., participation in sports, reduction of field trips. Others were related to changes in staffing due to new hires and changes in the student population associated with dollars allocated for outplacements and other special education services. Some of these changes allowed us to cover some unanticipated expenditures – e.g., the hiring of the architect and the additional repairs to the heating system.

I feel it is important that the BOE have the time to review the significant decreased need for dollars prior to the June meeting. At this meeting the administration will review these decreases, together with some recommendations for the allocation of these available dollars for BOE consideration. By providing this information at the May meeting, the BOE will have time to reflect on these recommendations and ask additional questions prior to making needed decisions at the June meeting.

XIV. Financial Reports

As always, if there are any questions regarding the financial reports please send them to me prior to the meeting, if possible.

C. Budget Transfers

Although there will be requests for additional transfers in June, we are recommending the BOE approve the following transfer at this time:

\$6,000 from 100.1200.3.111.00.5 (Salary, Teachers, SE) to 100.1200.3.121.03.5 (Substitutes, Non-Cert,SE)