

## Superintendent's Report: November 2021

Highlight of the Month: I continue to enjoy any and all opportunities to walk around the building and receive invitations to join in classroom learning activities. This month I had the opportunity to watch the students in Charles Kernan's class who were engaged in a cooperative, problem-solving social studies lesson. There is always something interesting going on in our art room each time I walk by. I enjoyed looking through the unique grade 4 art journals. Rebekah Budd deserves a "Shout Out" for her efforts that created opportunities for our students to display their artwork at the Town Library.

### News and Notes:

#### Educational Leadership

- The Eastford CARES program, although enrollment is still low, continues to grow. A "Shout Out" to Mary Seguine for her continued dedication to keep this program moving forward.
- At the October meeting of the Curriculum Committee, A "Shout Out" to Carole McCombe and Megan Dill for their informed presentation of the Strategic Plan, as well as sharing evidence of efforts to promote our vision of an Eastford Learner that are happening throughout the school.
- I continue to attend weekly meetings of the State Departments of Health and Education. Changes in quarantine guidelines, recently released by Governor Lamont, were discussed at the last meeting. The Administration and the school nurse will review the official guidelines once we receive them from the State.

#### Facilities:

- We continue to require adjustments to our heating system as the need for heat in classrooms increases. EMCOR has been responsive to our calls for assistance. A "Shout Out" to the chair of the Town Boiler Committee, Paul Torcellini, for his continued dedication to the project as well as his volunteer services that help keep the system working.
- Ben Schmidt and James Roy recently removed a piece of damaged playground equipment.

#### Collaboration and Communication:

- I continue to meet on a regular basis with area superintendents to discuss various approaches to contracted services and opportunities for shared services when possible.
- Beginning in January, Mystic Aquarium will be offering a program each month to the students in grade K and to students in the Eastford CARES program.

#### Finance:

- The administration is beginning the process of building the 2022-23 Budget. Each year we look carefully at all requested budget items considering the current and projected needs of our staff, families and students.

#### Comments on selected agenda items

##### X. Unfinished Business

- A. Revisions to Policy 3320, Purchasing: You are being provided with a clean version of Policy 3320 for final BOE review, revision and approval.

##### XI. New Business

- A. Budget 2022-2023, Meeting Dates: Included in your packet for review and possible action are suggested budget meeting dates of the Finance Committee of the BOE, including the session for public input, the presentation of the Superintendent's budget and final approval of the budget by the BOE.
- B. Preliminary Discussion of High School Contracts: We need to update our contracts with E.O. Smith and Woodstock Academy. Our E.O. Smith contract ends this year. I met with the

Superintendent of E.O. Smith, and she will be providing us with an updated contract that reflects the new tuition and special services pricing. Our contract with WA will automatically renew for another five years in February unless we provide written notice a year in advance that we intend to terminate the contract. Although I do not believe there is any intention to terminate the contract, I do believe that it is important to review the terms and conditions of the contract. I will be meeting with Chris Sandford on November 12 for this purpose. Included in the BOE packet are copies of our existing contracts with both high schools for your review. If you have any suggestions for revision, please send your thoughts to me as soon as possible so I can discuss them with the respective superintendents. If you prefer to have a representative from either high school attend one of our meetings, I can arrange that for you. Once all information is updated, the contracts will be brought forward to the BOE for approval. In addition to the contracts, included in your packet is the document, High School Counts. This document provides you with the 2016-2021 October 1 enrollment numbers at the various high schools our students attend. At the bottom of the document, you will find the high schools that our grade 8 students chose to attend from 2018-2021.

- C. Contract with Lindsey Limousine: As you know there have been issues with transportation providers across the State. Although we are contracted with EastConn for our special education services, to date they have not been able to provide services for some changed placements and routes. A “Shout Out” to Mary Jo Chretien for the inordinate number of hours she has dedicated trying to secure alternate transportation for these situations. Mary Jo was able to secure the services of Lindsey Limousine. Although this provider is not officially approved by the State to provide special education services, they have been responsive to all the requests we have made of them. At this time, after having contacted numerous approved providers, this is the best that we have located. Our attorney has been working with Mary Jo to draft a contract for these services. The BOE needs to officially approve the contract.
- D. Receive Annual Report for School Year 2020-2021: I have been preparing, with Kymberli’s assistance, our Annual Report for the School Year 2020-2021. A copy of this completed report will be provided to you via email prior to the BOE meeting.
- E. thru J. Policies These policies are being reviewed by the Policy Committee on November 4 and are being shared with the BOE for a first reading.

### XIII. Financial Reports

As always, if possible, please send any questions regarding the financial information provided in this packet prior to the BOE meeting. We are currently not recommending any transfer of funds.