

Superintendent's Report: November 2022

Highlight of the Month: It is exciting to view the expanding display of engaging student artwork throughout the building. I also had the opportunity to engage in an enthusiastic discussion with our art teacher, Jennifer Weinland, focused on her comprehensive plans for engaging our students in meaningful art instruction as well as her plans for additional displays of student art in the school and the community.

News and notes:

Student Achievement

- I continue to work with Carole and Mary P. to provide our students with additional and meaningful support in social and emotional learning. Carole and Mary are currently working on a competitive grant that would support our efforts in this area.
- I continue to support the development of quality programming in the disciplines of art, music, and physical education.

Climate and Culture:

- Carole and I met with our custodial team to review and update the tasks that they must perform daily, weekly, and monthly to ensure that we maintain a clean and healthy environment for our staff and students. We also discussed any support that they needed to accomplish their responsibilities.
- Carole and I met with Jan-Pro Cleaning Services to discuss a contract for providing substitute coverage for our custodial staff as well as 4 hours of intense cleaning per week in high needs areas. We have had no success in the past in hiring a substitute custodian, which results in a burden for our staff to maintain the highest level of cleanliness and sanitation throughout the building. We are hopeful that this contracted service will provide the additional support needed when a custodian is absent and allow for deep cleaning of critical spaces when students are not in the building.
- Carole and I met with the staff of the Before and After School Program to discuss the important services this program provides for our students and families. We discussed any concerns they had or support they needed to provide a smooth and safe transition of students from regular day instruction to this program.

Collaboration and Communication:

- Deb Richards and I are working together to submit a competitive HVAC State Construction grant that, if successful, would provide reimbursement for portions of our heating system upgrade.
- Deb and I maintain open lines of communication regarding issues that involve both the Town and the school, as well as looking for ways to optimize our joint use of resources.
- We recently entered into contracted agreements with the Ashford School District to obtain busing for select field trips. Ashford operates their own transportation system. Due to timing and driver shortage, EastConn was not able to provide transportation for some of our field trips.
- I attend the regional meetings of the northeast region Superintendent group to discuss common issues and possible avenues for collaboration.

Comments on selected agenda items

Unfinished Business

- A. Adopt New 6000 Series Policy Addressing Enrollment in an Advanced Course or Program and Challenging Curriculum
This is the second reading of this policy.

New Business

A. Resignation of Paraprofessional

Deborah Giovanni resigned from her paraprofessional position after twelve years of dedicated service to our students.

B. Resignation of Speech and Language Pathologist

Rachelle Mauer is resigning from her position as our Speech and Language Pathologist to pursue other opportunities. Rachelle has provided over five years of professional service to our students.

C. Budget 2023-2024, Meeting Dates

It is that season! Although we have not received official correspondence, Deb Richards and I have spoken about the upcoming budget timeline. A draft timeline of BOE and Finance Committee meetings are attached for your review.

D. Ed Specs for Heating System

A copy of these Educational Specifications will be provided to the BOE prior to the meeting on November 10. These specifications are for the heating system we recently completed. A BOE vote of these specifications is required to complete the competitive HVAC grant.

E. 5000 Series policies recommended for repeal

F. 5000 Series policies for first reading

G. New 4000 Series Policies: Emergency Action Plan for Athletic Events and Exertional Heat Illness Awareness

Comments regarding items E-G are provided in a separate email. Copies of these policies are attached to that email.

Financial Reports

As always please let me know if you have any questions regarding any of the financial reports. There are no transfers begin recommended at this time.