

Superintendent's Report: October 2021

Highlight of the Month: Thanks to the efforts of all, we completed a successful first month of school. It is wonderful to hear the voices of teachers and children in classrooms, hallways and outside. One of the sounds that brings me the greatest joy is to hear the music lessons that Joe Tomanelli is doing with our students. A "Shout Out" to Joe for investing the time and creativity to incorporate the use of a variety of musical instruments into our program for all of our students.

News and Notes:

Educational Leadership

- We are slowly implementing the Eastford CARES afterschool program. A "Shout Out" to Mary Seguire for her enthusiastic assistance with organizing this program and bringing this program to the attention of our families. We are hopeful as the program continues that more families take advantage of this resource.
- Based on the recommendation of Carole McCombe, we were able to reduce the number of weekly FTE hours for our art teaching position to less than a .6 FTE without impacting art programming for our students. We were able to use this decrease in FTE to make a long desired increase in the FTE hours of our current Spanish language teaching position to a .4 FTE. This increase in hours will allow us to provide a comprehensive program of instruction in Spanish language and culture to all students in grades K-8 (formerly grades 3-8).
- We are making progress related to the implementation of social and emotional learning strategies. This is a targeted area of improvement in our Strategic Plan. I extend a well deserved "Shout Out" to Carole and the Response to Intervention Team for all the positive efforts they are making in this area.

Facilities:

- Our heat is working. There are still some minor adjustments needed in the control system. We are in the process of reviewing and rectifying these issues with EMCOR.
- An additional keyless entry location was installed on the door to the grade K play area.
- I sent the BOS the information that the Town Roof Committee will need to apply for a State Construction grant for the roof project.

Collaboration and Communication:

- We updated our student information system to include AP Notify. This application will allow us to send text, voice and email communications to families. Notices can be customized by intended audience. In addition to our delays or closures for weather-related events, this application will be very helpful to send families notice of unexpected delays or closures such as a bus delay or a mechanical issue at the school.
- We continue to build a partnership with Eastern. One of their clinical students, Morgan Reynolds, was recently hired as a temporary paraprofessional until she begins her student teaching assignment in the spring. Another student will be presenting a science program as part of our Eastford CARES program.
- Mystic Seaport is providing a series of programs as part of our Eastford CARES program. These programs are free of charge to Eastford under a special grant received by Mystic Seaport.

Finance:

Kymerli has been working with the Town and the auditor as we move into the official audit of the 2020-21 budget. Kymerli also deserves a "Shout Out" for all the work required by our additional grant-funded programs.

Comments on selected agenda items

X. Unfinished Business

Policies A-F: The following policies are on the agenda for a third reading and possible action. I am providing some specific comments since the initial discussion took place two meetings prior.

- A. Revisions to Policy 3313, Relations With Vendors - This policy is not required. The Board is advised to consider whether it wishes to repeal or retain this policy.
- B. Repeal Policy 3313.1, Local Purchasing - We recommend consolidating this policy with Policy 3320, Purchasing. Please see comments in the proposed revisions to Policy 3320.
- C. Repeal Policy 3326, Paying for Goods and Services - This policy has two sections and neither section is necessary (either because it is not required or because it is covered by another policy). Specifically, the first section can be consolidated with Policy 3320, if the Board so chooses. Please see comments in the proposed revisions. The second section addresses the authority of the Superintendent to make line item transfers, which is also addressed in Policy 3150, Budget and Line Item Transfers. We recommend that the same issue not be addressed in two separate policies.
- D. Revisions to Policy 3326.1, Paying for Goods and Services: Payroll - This policy is not required. The Board should consider whether it wishes to repeal or retain this policy.
- E. Revisions to Policy 3320, Purchasing (including new appendix A) - You previously received a copy of Policy 3320 which includes comments as to where the information from repealed policies has been inserted. The other suggested changes refer to procedures the board will follow with respect to purchasing. As noted in my prior report, the policy sections can become confusing. The first sections of the policy refer to the purchase limits the BOE will follow for 1.) a Competitive Sealed Bid Process and the amounts the BOE will follow for 2.) a Competitive Quotation Process. The latter portions of the policy refers to the same guidelines for the purchases of special or professional services.
- F. Adopt Code of Conduct for Procurements Under a Federal Award (new policy 3000 series)

Policies G-J - Changes in these policies were triggered by changes in health protocols. Additional changes bring the policies up to date with the current Shipman & Goodwin policies. School staff reviewed any recommended changes, procedures and documents. The Transportation committee reviewed the Transportation policy.

Policies K-M - No additional comments

N. Revisions to Policy 5142, Student Health Services - Although not required, the BOE may opt to keep Eastford's Student Health Services policy. However, to avoid duplication with other regulations, eliminate the following sections:

- a. Regular Health Assessments
- b. Vision Screening
- c. Hearing Screening
- d. Postural Screening
- e. Dental
- f. Tuberculin Testing
- g. Immunizations/Vaccinations

O. Repeal Student Health Services, Health Assessments and Immunizations: Regulations - There are not many revisions to the Health Assessments/Screening portions of our policy but, because of the recent change in the law, there are significant updates to the immunization portions of Eastford's regulations. Moving forward, the Policy Committee recommends that the Board repeal Eastford's current Health Assessments, Screenings and Immunizations

Regulations (which combined 2 sets of regulations into one) and adopt the Shipman & Goodwin model regulations.

- P. Adopt new regulation: Health Assessments, Screenings, and Oral Health Assessments Regulations
- Q. Adopt new regulation: Immunization Regulations - You received copies of the Shipman & Goodwin model regulations in your 9/9/21 BOE meeting packet. We will also remove the link to 'Required Immunizations 2017-2018' from the website because an updated reference to state requirements is included in the updated model Immunization regulations. All the health-related policies and regulations were reviewed by our school nurse.

XI. New Business

- A. Approval of Title I and II Grant submission – We were approved for a decreased amount of Title I funding in the amount of \$5,258.
- B. Approval of the School Safety and Security Plan - Carole will speak to the changes in this plan, of which there are not many. This plan must be approved by the BOE before submission to the State on November 1.

Items C-D - Item C was addressed at a prior meeting and Item D is a routine action. I am asking the BOE to consider holding the August meeting on the third rather than the second Thursday of the month.

Items E-G - We are currently using the procedures in the suggested new model policy. These items will be reviewed by the Policy Committee and recommendations for these actions will be provided at the meeting. The regulations for the vaccinations are aligned with the State mandates.

XII. Financial Reports - There are no requested transfers at this time. As always, if you have any questions regarding any of the financial reports, please do not hesitate to contact me.