

Superintendent's Report: October 2022

Highlight of the Month: Completion (hopefully) of the multi-phased heating project! The heat is on!

News and Notes:

Student Achievement

- I continue to meet with Carole to support the professional needs of the staff as they move forward with the implementation of the English Language Arts program and the newly adopted mathematics program.
- Carole and I continue to monitor the recent actions of the State regarding Science of Reading and the approval of selected English/Language Arts programs for use in Connecticut schools.
- I wrote the Title I, II and IV grant applications that will provide additional staffing supports for students and staff.
- Sonia Greene, PhD, a consultant hired through grant funding, provided additional support to staff and students during the 2021-22 school year in social and emotional learning. Staff found this support very useful in 2021-22. I met with Sonia to discuss continuation of this contract during the 2022-23 school year.
- The afterschool program offerings and attendance continue to grow.

Climate and Culture:

- I meet regularly with our EMCOR representative to monitor the effective operation of our HVAC system. We turned on the heating system the end of September and, except for a few minor adjustments, we seem to finally have completed a successful upgrade that will provide a better working environment for our staff and students.
- I am monitoring the recent legislation regarding the indoor air quality standards that will be expected in schools by 2024. There is a committee working to fully define these standards. Competitive HVAC grant dollars are available to work on system upgrades. The Facilities Committee met to discuss this legislation and grant funding. As with other construction grants, application for these dollars requires the commitment of upfront funding by the Town. Given the tight deadline of December 1, the uncertainty of the specific standards and the need for upfront commitment of Town dollars, the committee determined that we will not be applying for this grant at this time. There is, however, a possibility that prior HVAC projects such as heating system upgrades may be submitted for consideration. I am monitoring that aspect of the funding to determine, once application details are released, whether we can apply for partial reimbursement of our heating system costs.

Collaboration and Communication:

- I met with Pastors Michael Moran and Timothy Howard to make plans for continued partnership activities and support.
- 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:

XI. New Business

- Appointment to the Killingly Regional Vocational Agriculture Center Consulting Committee: *This is a routine appointment that occurs every three years.*
- Approval of Title I, Title II, and Title IV Grant submissions: *We are fortunate to qualify for these grants this year.*
- Approval of School Safety & Security Plan for submission to the State: *The School Safety Committee made the needed updates and revisions to the plan.*

- D. Approval of 2022-23 Flexibilities option for teacher evaluation: *Districts were allowed to adopt the same Flexibilities for evaluation for 2022-23 as they did in 2021-22. The Flexibilities option was approved by Eastford's Professional Development and Evaluation Committee.*
- E. Receive Annual Report for School Year 2021-2022: *Please read the attached report. The Town requested submission of the report by October 3. If there are any sections you have questions about or believe need to be revised, you can share your thoughts at the meeting or send them to me for review prior to the meeting. If needed, an amended copy of the report will be forwarded to the Town.*
- F. Review and possible action on 2022-2023 Leadership Goals: *A draft of the BOE and administrative goals are attached for your review. The goals are consistent with the direction and the wording of the Strategic Plan that was shared with the BOE at the September meeting. The BOE can elect to approve or table the approval of these goals at this meeting. They could also opt to have a special workshop to review the goals and the Strategic Plan.*
- G. 2023 Board of Education Meeting Dates: *The list of suggested dates includes two special recommendations for consideration.*
- H. 5000 Series policies recommended for repeal (list to be provided): *The BOE Policy Committee will be starting the review of the 5000 series. They are meeting on October 6, after which there may be recommendations to repeal some policies in the current 5000 policy series. Details as to the specific policies will be provided in an updated correspondence following the October 6 meeting.*
- I. Review of Policy 5131.1, Transportation: *BOE action on this policy is dependent upon the review of this policy by the Policy Committee on October 6.*
- J. New 6000 Series Policy Addressing Enrollment in an Advanced Course or Program and Challenging Curriculum, first reading (will be sent via email): *The recommended format of this policy will be forwarded to the BOE after the Policy Committee meeting on October 6.*

XIII. Financial Reports: If there are any questions with any of the financial reports, please send them to me so responses can be prepared for the meeting.

C. Budget Transfers:

1. *Below you will note there are several recommended budget transfers to the certified and non-certified budget lines. We hired new staff at higher salaries than the staff that held these positions at the time the 2022-23 budget was approved. We believe it was important for the success of our students to hire the highest quality candidates, regardless of salary steps. These transfers are being made from accounts where we believe we can safely move this money from. Included in these transfers are the dollars we set aside for an office assistant. Although additional assistance is needed, after numerous postings we have not received any applications for this position and are therefore requesting these dollars be used to support the quality staff that we did hire.*

2. *We are requesting transfers that reallocate dollars budgeted for high school tuitions and public-school special education services to the SE Private Tuition line. These transfers reflect the changes in our population from the time the 2022-23 budget was approved, including the transfer into our district of addition special education students.*

- \$42,000 from 100.1200.3.112.00.5 (Salary, Para, SE), \$16,000 from 100.2220.1.731.00.5 (Equipment, Media), \$8,992 from 100.2400.1.112.01.5 (Salary, Office Assistant) and \$5,188.44 from 100.1200.3.122.02.5 (Summer School, SE Para) to 100.1000.1.111.00.5 (Salary, Teachers Regular)
- \$811.56 from 100.1200.3.122.02.5 (Summer School, SE Para) and \$1,029.27 from 100.1000.1.121.02.5 (Stipend, Extra Duty) to 100.2400.1.111.00.5 (Salary, Principal)
- \$653 from 100.1000.1.121.02.5 (Stipend, Extra Duty) to 100.2320.1.111.00.5 (Salary, Superintendent)
- \$1,010.50 from 100.1000.1.121.02.5 (Stipend, Extra Duty) to 100.2320.1.112.00.5 (Salary, Asst to Superintendent)
- \$1,008.50 from 100.1000.1.121.02.5 (Stipend, Extra Duty) to 100.2400.1.112.00.5 (Salary, School Secretary)
- \$31,945 from 100.1200.3.561.00.5 (Tuition, SE, Public), \$13,789 from 100.1000.2.561.33.5 (Tuition, Secondary, EO Smith), \$5300 from 100.1000.2.564.35.5 (Tuition, Secondary, QMC) and \$900 from 100.1200.3.569.00.5 (Tuition, SE Summer Camp) to 100.1200.3.563.00.5 (Tuition, SE, Private)