

Highlight of the Month: I have been partnering with the Superintendent in Andover, Valerie Brunneau, to develop and share enrichment programming options for our schools. As a part of this effort, we were offered the opportunity to participate with Andover in a series of zoom talks with Connecticut authors. Although it often means additional preparation and adjustments in scheduling, our teaching staff is always willing to participate in programs they believe will benefit our students. Michelle Bibeault, Megan Dill, Melissa Lessard, Elizabeth Rhynhart, and Lori Crocker-Lincoln agreed to participate in these talks. I had the good fortune to be on-site and invited to join Lori's students when they were engaged in their author talk. The opportunity to connect with our students and experience, first hand, their excitement in learning like this provides the incentive to continue to do all we can to make this year, in spite of all the impacts of COVID, a meaningful instructional year for our students.

#### News and Notes:

##### Educational Leadership

We continue to offer in-person learning and our teachers still continue to put forth expanded efforts to meet the needs of those learning on-site and remotely. The clinic for administration of the second dose of the Moderna vaccine, for those individuals that already received the first dose on March 3, took place on March 31 at EES. I continue to participate in the weekly updates provided by the Connecticut Department of Education and the State Department of Public Health, as well as the weekly meetings of URSA/NASA, the area superintendent group. Although the administration of vaccines is steadily advancing, there is growing concern for the increase in positive COVID-19 cases across the State and the country. In response, the Message from the Superintendent and the Finish First document included in this packet were included with the April edition of the EES school newsletter.

##### Facilities

We entered into an updated, yearly preventive maintenance plan with EMCOR. This plan includes an important checklist of all of the HVAC related items in our building that need to be monitored and maintained. It is hoped that this updated contract will reduce the number of routine single item maintenance calls, as well as emergency calls, and provide the best care and optimum efficiency for our aging systems. A copy of the contract is included in this packet.

##### Collaboration and Communication

We continue to collaborate with the State Department of Education and the Department of Health as well as the leadership of school districts and schools in our region to discuss the plans, with respect to the latest pandemic data, for upcoming events such as sports and end of year events, including graduation. We are also beginning to reach out to our long time partners, such as the Congregational Church of Eastford and the Eastford Baptist Church, to tentatively begin to plan for a return to much-missed collaboration efforts in the fall.

##### Finance

We continue to monitor our budget and advise the Board as to needed transfers. We are also in the process of applying for routine grants such as the School Readiness Grant (XI.B) and the IDEA Grant (XI. C) I also included approval for the After School Grant (XI. D) on the agenda. Although there have been funds set aside for small districts this year, the After School Grant is a competitive grant so there is no assurance we will receive one. There are complexities in both the writing of the application and the management of a program, if successful, that will need to be carefully reviewed prior to the actual submission of the grant.

I continue to remain in communication with Julia McGrath from the office of Joe Courtney regarding any possible funding sources, since our district did not qualify for the ESSER 3 funding associated with the American Relief Plan. This week, our first selectman forwarded information on funds that are available

through Community Funding Projects. The deadline is tight for these funds, April 9, and it is competitive. Our small administrative team is already engaged in writing the proposals for several other grants, so we may not submit an application this year. I did, however, ask Julia to send any supporting information to us for review.

#### Comments on the BOE Agenda Items:

#### X. Unfinished Business

##### X. A. Budget 2021-2022, Discussion and possible action

The BOE may wish to review and discuss the BOE 2021-2022 budget, pending outcomes from the recent BOS/BOF budget discussions.

#### XI. New Business

##### XI. A. Proposal to use school electricity for Electric Car Charging Station

Thomas Hughes will be presenting a proposal for an electric car charging station in our parking lot.

##### XI. B–D.

Grant approvals were referenced in the finance section above.

##### XI. E. Update to Centreville Bank account signers

Possible signature document approval for the School Activity and School Milk accounts for Centreville Bank.

##### XI. F. Ethel Cushing Gardner Music Scholarship recipient

The scholarship committee reviewed the application for the Ethel Cushing Gardner Scholarship. Their nomination was sent to the sponsoring agency, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The nominee will be notified officially by the Foundation before we announce the selection publicly.

#### XIII. Financial Reports

##### XIII. B. Monthly Financial Summary

If you have questions on any specific line item, please send them to me prior to the BOE meeting so that your questions can be addressed at the meeting.

##### XIII. C. Budget Transfers

The following transfers are recommended at this time:

\$7,500 from 100.1200.3.112.00.5 (Salary, Para, SE) to 100.2600.1.121.02.5 (Substitutes, Custodial and Other)

\$8,000 from 100.1000.1.121.02.5 (Stipend, Extra Duty) to 100.1200.3.561.00.5 (Tuition, SE, Public)

\$3,624.13 from 100.2190.1.121.00.5 (Sports Stipends) to 100.1200.3.561.00.5 (Tuition, SE, Public)

\$2,419.84 from 100.2190.1.121.00.5 (Sports Stipends) to 100.1200.2.564.35.5 (Tuition, Secondary, EastConn)

\$504.03 from 100.2190.1.121.00.5 (Sports Stipends) to 100.1200.3.591.00.5 (SE Services)