

## Superintendent's Report: August 2022

Highlight of the Month: Once again this summer, our building was filled with the sounds of children participating in various summer school activities. I would like to extend thanks to Patricia Moran, Mary Jo Chretien and staff for a very successful extended year program and to Candice Mead and staff for making our second STEM/Mystic summer enrichment program even better than the first year.

### News and notes:

#### Educational Leadership

- This summer, based on a review of progress made by staff throughout the year, the administration, in collaboration with Eastconn staff, updated our Strategic Plan for the 2022-23 school year. Carole will share the draft copy of this plan with the staff during the professional development days for input. All staff goals will be linked to the initiatives outlined in the Strategic Plan. Once complete, a copy of this plan will be forwarded to the BOE for review and input in conjunction with the updating of BOE goals. A copy will also be placed on our website for family review and input.
- Over the summer, staff and administration prepared for the continued implementation of the English Language Arts program materials and the implementation of the new mathematics program materials. Our hope for this year is to complete an updated English Language Arts curriculum and the draft of a mathematics curriculum.
- Our competitive after school grant award was continued for the 2022-23 school year. We are looking forward to an improved and expanded set of after school program opportunities that will meet the interests of more of our students and families. Charles Kernan is the Project Director for this program for the 2022-23 school year.
- On Thursday, we hired Mr. Nicholas Cody as our new PE/Health teacher. In addition to Nicholas, as of this communication we are very excited to welcome the following new staff members for the 2022-23 school year: Mrs. Mary Polchaninoff, Director of Pupil Services; Mrs. Dawn Bisson, Grade 3 teacher; Ms. Jennifer Weinland, Art teacher; Mr. James Salsich, English/Language Arts teacher; and Mrs. Kelly Farrell-Denke, Instrumental Music teacher.
- All BOE members are invited to join us on the August 29 professional development day to meet new staff and greet those that are returning. Breakfast or lunch would be the best times to introduce you to our staff. If, however, your schedule does not accommodate these times and you want to stop by, please inform Carole of your anticipated arrival time and we will make all efforts to introduce you to staff.
- We are experiencing an increase in population, particularly at the pre-school and kindergarten levels. Included in your packet is an unofficial enrollment report which shows an increase of 14 students in grades Pre-K to 8 from the close of the 2021-22 school year to date. To determine, to the extent that we can, the potential for this growth to continue we have developed and circulated a survey. We have distributed the survey to families and posted the survey on our website. We have also shared the survey with the the First Selectman and the Pastors of the local churches to share with families that may not already have students in school. We will keep you apprised of information gathered and implications for enrollment at EES at future BOE meetings.

#### Facilities:

- The Town Roof Committee recommended and the BOS awarded the school roof contract to Northeast Builders Roofing Company.
- All necessary inspections have been scheduled this summer, e.g., fire, HVAC, and alarm system. Any minor corrections have been noted and will be addressed before the beginning of school.
- Due to supply delays, our heating pump and our new set of doors by the back recess entry have not yet been installed.

- Our new phone system is in the process of being installed and we recently approved an upgrade to our alarm system which will allow for communication between the alarm system and the new phone system. We also completed work on our keyless entry system.
- Tom DeJohn has been working on a variety of small repairs around the school, including the repair of the ramp to the back playground and building a set of steps to the kindergarten play area.
- Our front walkway was replaced by Jake's Foundations, who will be returning to make the new concrete level with the existing asphalt.
- Our new network server will be ready to go by the start of school.

#### Collaboration and Communication:

We continue to partner with Mystic Seaport and Mystic Aquarium to provide on-site and off-site learning experiences for our students, both during the day and as part of our afterschool programming. We will continue our partnerships with the Congregational Church of Eastford and the Eastford Baptist Church. We are in contact with other districts that recently purchased the same mathematics program that we purchased to plan for future collaborative support. The best, most recent example of collaboration, however, was between First Selectman Deb Richards and me. Working together, the roof contract was signed and work on the EES roof started on Friday, August 19. Thanks Deb!

#### Finance:

Kymberli was quite busy this summer completing grant expenditure reports, closing out the 2021-22 budget and preparing the invoices for the projects and purchases approved by the BOE. A special thanks to Kymberli for all her efforts and for the continued generous support of our BOE.

#### Comments on selected agenda items

##### New Business

##### A. Resignation of PE/Health teacher

We received the resignation of our PE/HEALTH teacher, Tyler Bridgewater. Tyler has decided to pursue a full time career in the National Guard. Thank you, Tyler, for your professional service to our students and to your commitment of service to our country.

##### B. 2022-2023 Bus Routes

These routes will continue to be adjusted as we register new students. We will provide you with links to the most updated routes prior to the BOE meeting.

##### C. Request for Union students to participate in Sports 2022-2023

We have received a request from the Union Superintendent for Union students to participate in our sports programs.

##### D. CABE Conference registration

Registration for the CABE conference is open. I will be attending the conference on Friday, November 18 and any BOE member who has the time to attend is encouraged to join me.

##### Financial Reports

As always if you have any questions regarding any of the financial reports, please do not hesitate to forward them to me prior to the BOE meeting so we can be best prepared to respond.

Looking forward to 'seeing' all of you on August 25 at 6:00 PM