

Highlight of the Month:

We often forget about the “behind the scenes” superheroes that support the smooth operation of EES with everything that they do every day.

Special thanks to:

Mary Sequine – school secretary, special education assistant, front desk dispatcher, school report generator, mailperson, occasional building trouble-shooter, etc.

Kymberli Gaylor – financial assistant, superintendent’s assistant, zoom specialist, school/town reports coordinator, grants wizard, BOE clerk, etc.

Dale Lundy and Chris Pittman –full time custodial team, snow removers, heat and ventilation adjusters, etc.

William Lindsay- part time custodian, special cleaning project assistant, full time fill-in as needed, etc.

News and Notes

Educational Leadership

The administrative team and our school nurse continue to monitor all updated information received from the State and our local health agencies related to the continuation of mitigating strategies, isolation and quarantine requirements, and the roll out of the vaccine, etc. We were, thanks to the efforts of all, able to provide a full month of in-person instruction in January. Due to a late January snowstorm we needed to utilize our second snow day on Feb 1 and, thanks to the preparedness of our staff, a smooth transition to one day of remote instruction on Feb 2.

Facilities

The LOCIP meeting will take place on Saturday, February 6. We continue to make adjustments to our heating system to better regulate the temperatures in our classrooms. We recently completed an upgrade to the heating controls in the gym. Our network system is back up and running after being down for a few days due to a tripped breaker.

Collaboration and Communication

We continue to look for ways to collaborate with other districts to provide new opportunities for enrichment to our students. There are plans in place for some of our grade levels to participate in “author talks” with students from the Andover, CT School District. We also reached out to Eastern to reconnect, post COVID, in the fall with members of their educational staff, student teachers and clinical students.

Finance

Kymberli continues to request reimbursements from our COVID grant. We applied for the small Minority Teacher’s Recruitment Grant offered by the Connecticut Alliance of Regional Education Support Centers (RESC) and for free professional development days, also offered by RESC, to support our efforts to provide blended learning online and in-person instruction to all of our students. We have received preliminary information regarding Title I, REAP and a one-time only ESSER-2 grant. At this time, none of these applications are open for submission requests.

Comments on the BOE Agenda Items

XI. New Business

A. EES Five Year Plan

Included in this packet is the proposed 5-year plan. To create this plan, we continued to extend out by an additional 3% each year based on the BOE’s requested 2021-22 budget. At this point in time the only known contractual data we have in place is our bus contract with EastConn for the daily transportation for the years 2020-2025 and our contract with the Eastford Teachers Association for the years 2021-2024.

XIII. Financial Reports

B. Monthly Financial Summary, January 2021

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.

C. Budget Transfers

As noted under Finance above, we requested additional reimbursements for our COVID-19 related expenses from the special Coronavirus grant. We are still waiting for final reimbursements in March, after which we will be requesting additional transfers. The transfers posted below will:

1. Transfer funds from the teacher salary line to the substitute salary line.
The salary for our physical education/health teacher is budgeted in the teacher line. Our long-term substitute is paid from the substitute line.
2. Transfer funds from our paraprofessional salary line.
We had funds due to our not hiring an additional paraprofessional, so the transfer will offset some of the paraprofessional substitute costs.
3. Transfer funds from the teacher and paraprofessional salary lines and the field trip transportation line to continue to offset our unanticipated special education tuition expenses.
Although we have not completely ruled out the possibility of field trips in the spring, we would not be making the number of trips that were planned to occur throughout the school year.

\$37,000 from 100.1000.1.111.00.5 (Salary Teachers, Reg) to 100.1000.1.121.00.5 (Substitutes, Certified)

\$3,000 from 100.1200.3.112.00.5 (Salary, Para, SE) to 100.1200.3.121.03.5 (Substitutes, Non-Certified, SE)

\$10,000 from 100.1000.1.111.00.5 (Salary Teachers, Reg) to 100.1200.3.561.00.5 (Tuition, SE, Public)

\$5,000 from 100.1200.3.112.00.5 (Salary, Para, SE) to 100.1200.3.561.00.5 (Tuition, SE, Public)

\$5,000 from 100.2700.1.580.13.5 (Travel, Field Trips) to 100.1200.3.561.00.5 (Tuition, SE, Public)