

## Superintendent's Report: June 2023

Highlight of the Month: I believe you can tell by now that I most enjoy the time I get to spend with our students. This month I had the opportunity to dialogue with the grade eight students about their trip to Washington, D.C. I was impressed by their candor, insights and hopes for the future. Having learning experiences and sharing time together outside of school with their fellow classmates and their teachers was the undisputed top highlight of their trip. Visiting the air and space museum and the memorials also impressed them. Conversation switched at times from their thoughts of the trip experience to expressing their feelings, ranging from uncertainty to a sense of adventure, about leaving Eastford for the high school of their choice. I'm proud of our eighth-grade students and I look forward to joining them and their families on June 15 to celebrate the successful culmination of their time at EES.

### News and notes:

#### Educational Leadership

- Teachers have been working on the implementation of the new math program materials this year. It has not been an easy journey, but our teachers have made great progress. Time has been set aside for some summer curriculum work to help them prepare for the second year.
- The license for our current set of science materials ends this year. Candice Mead agreed to facilitate our efforts to review and recommend new science programming materials for our students. Jessica Garvie, Elizabeth Rhynhart, Lori Crocker-Lincoln, Dawn Bisson, Megan Dill, and Donna Lynch have been meeting with Candice after school to review materials. The recommendations of this team will be presented to the Curriculum Committee in June.
- We will be offering learning opportunities this summer designed to meet the varied needs of our students. A special thanks to Candice Mead and Patricia Moran for planning and supporting these program opportunities.
- Due to grant funding, we have offered various opportunities for students to participate in after school programming for free throughout the year. A special thank you to Carole and Charles Kernan for being there through the times we have had difficulty providing enough staffing for all students who wanted to attend. The implementation experiences gained this year will help us draft the competitive grant document that, if we are successful in obtaining the grant, will allow us to continue to offer a range of opportunities next year.
- Carole and I will be submitting the Right to Read grant. This grant will provide additional funds for the purchase of reading materials and assessments recommended for use by the State of Connecticut.

#### Facilities:

- Unfortunately, the EMCOR truck, absent most of the year following the completion of the heating system, made an appearance this week on the grounds of EES due to leaking pipes in the gym entry area. We are waiting for the estimate of the needed repairs.
- Our custodians participated in a brief refresher training program concerning the use of some of the new pieces of cleaning equipment purchased last year.

#### Collaboration and Communication:

- Deb Richards and I worked together to prepare for the recent Town budget hearing.
- Although we do not have any items on the capital budget for next year, we may be able to do the ceiling tile project using Town AARP funds.
- I met with Eric Protulis, the Executive Director of EastConn, to discuss ways our regional center can provide additional supports to small districts such as ours. Carole and I will be meeting with members of the EastConn professional development team to plan for continued support of the implementation of our Strategic Plan.

## Finance:

- Thanks once again to the efforts of Kymberli Gaylor, we continue to meet all timelines for completing the end of year grant reports.
- Steve Bowen presented the BOE budget at the Town meeting on May 23. By the time we meet at as BOE on June 9, we will know the outcome of the vote at the Town Meeting on June 5 at 7:00 PM. As you are aware the final budget submitted to the Town by the BOE was reduced from 10.17% to 7.30%. Some of the suggested use of dollars as part of the End of Year transfers are intended to ease the impact of this reduction.

## Comments on selected agenda items

### Unfinished Business

- Establish Committee for Non-Certified Staff Union Contract  
*Steve Bowen, Lauren Barlow, and Robert Ellsworth will serve as the BOE committee for negotiations with the AFSCME union (non-certified). Initial dates have been established.*
- Establish Committee for Certified Staff Union Contract  
*Steve Bowen, Terry Cote, and Adam Minor will serve as the BOE committee for negotiations with the ETA union (certified). Initial meeting dates TBD.*

### New Business

- Teacher Evaluation Flexibilities  
*Districts are allowed to adopt the same Flexibilities for evaluation for 2023-24 as they did in 2022-23. The Flexibilities option was approved by Eastford's Professional Development and Evaluation Committee*
- Right to Read Grant Approval  
*The State has allocated \$10, 000 for Eastford to purchase reading materials.*
- Non-Affiliated Salaries  
*The Executive Board will be presenting recommendations to the BOE regarding the salaries for the non-affiliated salaries, including the salaries of the Financial Assistant, School Secretary, Principal, BASP Child Care Providers, Interventionist, Primary Health Care Associate and Short-term substitutes. The Superintendent is not requesting a salary increase.*
- Set Tuition Rate for 2023-2024 school year.  
*Each year we establish a tuition rate for students residing outside of Eastford to attend Eastford Elementary School, if requested and accepted. This tuition is based on calculated costs and student enrollment. The calculation for the 2023-24 EES tuition rate is included in your packet.*
- Resignation of Pupil Services Director  
*Mary Polchaninoff has submitted her resignation as our Pupil Services Director.*

### Financial Reports

- May 2023 Disbursements
- Monthly Financial Summary, May 2023  
*As always, if there are any questions regarding the financial reports please send them to me prior to the meeting, if possible.*
- Budget Transfers  
*There are no specific transfers being requested at this time.*
- End of Year Budget Transfers, Purchases and Unexpended Funds  
*Due to grant fund availability and careful monitoring of expenditures, we will be ending the year with a positive balance. At this time, we are:*
  - asking the BOE to authorize the superintendent to make end of year transfers within the FY 2023 budget.*
  - To ease the pressure on the 2023-24 budget, as well as provide for the purchase of safety related items, we are asking the BOE to review and consider approval of the purchases presented on the attached list.*
  - The administration is requesting that the BOE, following the decisions they make on the attached use of funds, internally encumber up to 2% of the remaining 2022-23 budget dollars and request that the Town place this in the Unexpended Education portion of the Town of Eastford's Municipal Reserve Fund for educational expenditures.*
  - The BOE can opt to have a special meeting prior to the end of June to address any or all of the above.*