

## Superintendent's Report: October, 2023

Highlight of the Month: I had the opportunity to visit with the grade 7 students during their overnight trip to Mystic Seaport. A special thanks to Charles Kernan and Jennifer Barlow for sharing this overnight experience with our students.

### News and notes:

#### Educational Leadership

- Given we have dollars remaining from our prior grant, we are continuing to offer the basic after school programming at no cost to a limited number of families. We will expand the offerings and the number of families if our application for additional after school grant funding is approved.
- Due to a technical glitch, Eastford was accidentally left off the grant notice letter for the Primary Mental Health Program grant. After several conversations with the State contact for the PMHP grant funding, as well as the grants management technical support staff, the ability to apply for the grant was made possible.

### Facilities:

- The Town Roof Committee will meet to discuss the status of the PV project on October 16 at 5:15 PM. At this meeting the committee will also review new requests for payments that have been received.
- The Town has posted a bid for the removal and replacement of designated classroom ceilings. This project will be paid for with set aside Town funds.
- We needed to enlist the assistance of EMCOR for leaking pipes in the gym entry area. Although our core heating system is new, much of the old piping remains.

### Collaboration and Communication:

- The Town received grant funding to support the paving of our parking lot and playgrounds.
- Deb Richards and I continue to collaborate on obtaining the reimbursement we should be receiving for both the HVAC grant and the Roof/PV project.

### Finance:

- Our security grant application was not approved. The only feedback I received upon request was that our needs were not as great as other districts.
- As I mentioned, we are incurring additional expenses for the transportation of our students. These expenses were to be temporary until the bus routes settled. I will be discussing the current situation with Eastconn to determine whether this additional busing will continue to be needed. If this option needs to continue, I will be requesting a meeting of the Transportation Committee with representatives from Eastconn. As we continue to grow as a district, the demands on our transportation system will continue to increase.
- We are incurring some additional expenses in special education due to the changing needs of our students.

### Comments on selected agenda items

#### Unfinished Business

- A. Discuss unplanned school closings

*This is a continuation of the discussion that began last meeting in response to the early closings for heat-related conditions.*

#### New Business

- A. Ratification of the ETA Contract

*The BOE Executive Committee is recommending that the Eastford BOE ratify this contract with the ETA. The ETA has already ratified this contract.*

**B. Review and possible action on 2023-2024 Leadership Goals**

*Except for a few minor edits consistent with the EES updated strategic plan, the administration is continuing to focus their attention on the same goals that were in place during the 2022-23 school year. The BOE can choose to edit, continue, or change their goals. If the BOE opts to make significant changes in their goals, the administration will review and adjust accordingly the long-term strategic plan and their goals for the 2023-24 school year. A copy of the edited goals is included in the BOE packet. A copy of the most updated EES Strategic Plan will be shared with the Curriculum Committee at their meeting on October 12 at 4:00 PM. Copies of the updated plan will be available after this review.*

**C. 2024 Board of Education Meeting Dates**

*Included in this packet is a draft of recommended BOE for the 2024 calendar year.*

**D. Approval of Primary Mental Health Program (PMHP) Grant**

*Given that the Eastford School District did not receive the initial notice of application for the PMHP grant, the grant option was reopened to allow us to apply.*

**E. Approval of School Safety and Security Plan submission**

*The School Safety and Security Plan is ready for submission to the State.*

**Financial Reports**

*If there are any questions about any of the financial reports, please send them to me so responses can be prepared for the meeting. There are currently no transfer requests.*