

Superintendent's Report: November 2023

Highlight of the Month: A special thank you to Grade 1 teacher Elizabeth Rynhart for her very warm welcome to join in her classroom activities. Her students were very excited to share their knowledge about camouflage, especially the video about the camouflage of the octopus.

News and notes:

Educational Leadership

- As part of the Science of Reading initiative, Carole McCombe and I attended the optional one-one State meeting to answer questions and provide additional information regarding the waiver that Carole submitted to continue to move forward with our plan for reading. We were told that we would receive an answer to our waiver request by December. Carole and a team of teachers will also be attending monthly professional development sessions associated with the Science of Reading.
- I have maintained regular contact with the State department concerning the official awarding of the After School grant.

Facilities:

- At the recommendation of Jeff Paige, our plumber, I contacted Eastern Pipe Services regarding a preventive sewer pipe project that would involve lining the sewer pipes that run under our first-grade classroom and adjacent spaces. I am awaiting a call back to schedule a visit to provide an estimate for the project.
- I attended the Town Roof Committee meeting on October 16. We are still waiting for the connection agreement from Eversource and the completion of the PV project punch list. The next meeting of the Town Roof Committee is November 28 at 5:15 PM.
- We continue to contract with EMCOR for repairs to the HVAC system, i.e., the zone valve for the boy's bathroom and the air bleed line for the gym AHUs.

Collaboration and Communication:

- I began working with Lisa Kellerman, the Town accountant, to input all invoices paid to date on the roof/PV project.
- To potentially attract more candidates, we posted the music position as a shared full-time position for the towns of Eastford and Scotland.
- I suggested to Eastconn that we focus future conversations on possible shared contracts for personnel and services, including transportation.
- Carole and I met with a member of the Thompson security staff and Eastford resident Chris Bowen to discuss initiatives in security that Thompson has in place.

Finance:

- I am closely monitoring additional expenses in special education due to the changing needs of our students.
- The Transportation Committee will be meeting prior to the BOE meeting to discuss the need for additional transportation services.

Comments on selected agenda items

XI. New Business

A. Resignation of General Music teacher

Enclosed you will find a letter of resignation from our music teacher.

B. Approval of the 2024 ARP ESSER Small Town Right to Read Grant

This grant is being made available to small towns to provide funding to support the implementation of the Science of Reading initiative.

C. Budget 2024-2025 Meeting Dates

Enclosed in the packet is a set of proposed BOE budget meeting dates for your review considering your schedules.

XIII. 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.