

Superintendent's Report: March 2024

Highlight of the Month: This month I met the “survivors” of the second-grade science survival unit. As you most likely know, I am a strong proponent of a science program that engages students in real-life problem-solving activities. With the support of Mrs. Mead, our grades 1-5 teachers selected the Mystery Science program as our new program for science in grades K-5. The program, due to its hands on component, requires additional expenditure of dollars which the BOE supported (THANK YOU). Observing the second-grade science explorers in action in Mrs. Crocker-Lincoln's classroom convinced me that the choice and the associated costs are worth the learning that is occurring. Thank you, Lori, for investing time in a successful implementation of the program and inviting me to see this new program in action.

News and Notes

Educational Leadership:

- *Continued outreach to educational program providers, such as the CT River Museum and Discovering Amistad, to explore relevant programs for our students.*
- *Continued encouragement and support of the development of family and community partnerships as well as making a personal commitment to attend as many of these events as possible.*
- *Continued support of the implementation of the new science and math programs by providing adequate funding for the purchase of materials and professional development.*
- *Developed a draft of the new Plan for Educator Diversity for review by the Policy committee and the BOE.*

Facilities:

- *Participated in a review of the new PV system. The only item remaining relative to the Roof/PV project is the interconnection agreement from Eversource.*

Collaboration and Communication:

- *Continued regular communication with Deb Richards regarding school and town matters.*
- *Continued regular communication with Eric Protulis from EastConn regarding ways our regional center can support the needs of small school districts.*
- *Collaboration with the leaders of other districts and EES staff regarding the development of the Plan for Increasing Educator Diversity.*
- *Collaboration with EastConn for the purchase of maintenance and office supplies.*
- *Collaboration with the RESC Oil Consortium that resulted in a lock in for oil for 2024-25 (contract included in packet). Conversations with Deb Richards also resulted in a lock in price for the Town.*

Finance:

- *Continued followup with the Department of Administrative Services to secure the total amount of reimbursement from the State for our Roof/PV project.*

X. Unfinished Business

A. New Kindergarten Age Policy

Pending any suggestions for revisions, the BOE can vote to adopt this policy.

B. Exit Policy/Exit Survey

The BOE asked for follow up review/possible revisions to this policy. The Policy Committee reviewed and revised this policy at their meeting on March 7 and are recommending revisions to the BOE.

C. School Calendar 2024-2025, Discussion and Possible Action

The staff reviewed the proposed calendar that was shared with the BOE in February. Changes that will be included in the revised draft include the elimination of the wellness day and the addition of two half days for professional development.

D. Preschool Discussion

Carole will facilitate a continued discussion regarding an additional preschool.

XI. New Business

A. Resignation of Daytime Custodian

Our daytime custodian, Chris Pittman, resigned to take a position elsewhere. We are currently employing a part time substitute custodian, Lory Kneeland, until we complete the search process.

B. Resignation of Speech and Language Pathologist

Our current part time SLP, Jen Daniels, resigned to take a new position. We are looking to possibly share a SLP with another district in the hopes of offering a combined full-time option. We are also looking for temporary support until a new SLP is found.

C. Increasing Educator Diversity Plan

The Policy Committee reviewed the Increasing Educator Diversity Plan at its meeting on March 7. Based on the Committee review, it is recommended that the BOE approve the plan at its meeting on Thursday, March 14, so that the plan can be submitted to the State by March 15. If revisions are needed, the BOE will then have until May 15 to correct the plan.

D. Policy 6114, Technology and Instruction, recommended for repeal (sent via email)

E. Policy 6147, Controversial Issues, recommended for repeal (sent via email)

F. Policy 6156, Field Trips, recommended for repeal (sent via email)

G. Policy 6157, Tours, recommended for repeal (sent via email)

H. Policy 6152, School Activity Funds, recommended for repeal (sent via email)

The Policy Committee is recommending that the BOE repeal the policies in lines D-H.

I. Policy 3458, School Activity Funds, first reading (sent via email)

The Policy Committee is recommending that, due to the minor revisions needed, the BOE approve this policy after the first reading.

XIII. Financial Reports

As always, please submit any questions or concerns regarding the financial reports prior to the meeting so the administration can prepare the needed information.

Currently, we are not recommending any transfers.