

Superintendent's Report: April 2024

Highlight of the Month: I had a wonderful time at Mystic Seaport with the students in Grades 5 and 6 and their instructors, Charles Kernan and James Salsich. Instructors from the Discovering Amistad Program provided the students with a portion of the story of the Amistad voyage while being onboard the ship. The students then visited the planetarium for a presentation on navigating by the stars and its relevance to the Amistad voyage. Following this onsite visit, the students participated in a virtual program that continued the story of the Amistad, including the trial in New Haven. Once again, the opportunity to spend time with students and staff is the enjoyable and rewarding part of my job.

News and Notes

Educational Leadership:

- *I look forward to joining the families that will be attending the Astronomy based family partnership program on Friday night, April 5. This program is made possible through our partnership with Mystic Seaport and the funds provided by the after-school grant. A special Thank You to Candice Mead and Stephanie Schleicher for working with Brian Koehler, Mystic Seaport Museum, to organize this event.*
- *Our Educator Diversity Plan was acknowledged as received by the State. To date we have had no further communication from the State.*
- *I continue to support the work that Carole and staff are engaged in regarding compliance with the Science of Reading guidelines. Carole and staff will be reviewing program samples in preparation for a recommendation to the Curriculum Committee of the BOE.*

Facilities:

- *The only remaining item regarding the Roof/PV project is that Eversource needs to complete a Witness check of our system.*

Collaboration and Communication:

- *There is continued regular communication with Deb Richards regarding school and town matters, most recently the audit process and the setting of Town budget dates.*
- *There is ongoing communication with the leaders of other districts regarding our ability to provide timely response to all the State of CT mandates.*
- *There is ongoing communication with nonprofit learning organizations to provide extended learning opportunities for our students and their families.*

Finance:

- *With the support of a technical assistant from the DAS, I successfully submitted an additional set of invoices related to the PV project and obtained the adjusted reimbursement amounts for earlier invoices.*
- *Deb Richards, Lisa Kellermann, Kymberli Gaylor, and I have spent much time with the new auditor regarding the audit of the 2022-23 budget. His audit resulted in recommendations for changes in making expenditures that were much more extensive than our former auditor. We are still in the process of reviewing final paperwork and suggestions. Once we have the final document, I will inform the BOE of the impact on our budgetary accounts and procedures.*

Comments on selected agenda items

XI. Unfinished Business

A. Preschool Discussion

This is an opportunity for the BOE to continue discussion of opening an additional preschool program.

XII. New Business

A. Approve submission of the IDEA grants

We are in the process of applying for our traditional IDEA grant. We also were offered an opportunity to apply for a new IDEA Part B, TSA (Transition Support Activities) and ESP (Extended Support Para-Educator) grant of \$8,000 that provides funding for paraprofessional in-service and transition services for students. Charlie is in the process of developing the applications for both grants.

B. Approve submission of REAP grant

REAP (Rural Education Achievement Program) - We have been tentatively approved to receive approximately \$14,163 from the REAP grant. Application for the grant opens in May. We have traditionally used these dollars to provide supportive instructional services for our students.

C. High School Discussion

I have been receiving information from local high schools regarding their programs. This item is an opportunity for the BOE to discuss their interest, if any, in exploring the possibility of changing our designated high school.

D. Set the last day of school

The administration is recommending setting June 14 as the last day of school.

E. Set date of Grade 8 graduation

The administration is recommending a graduation date of June 13 at 6:30 PM. If accepted this would require a reposting of the BOE meeting with a 5:30 PM start time.

XIV. 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.