

Superintendent's Report: May 2024

Highlight of the Month: On May 1, I very much enjoyed experiencing the creativity of our families who participated in the family partnership program: "Painting in the style of Seurat". A special thank you to Candice Mead and Stephanie Schleicher for organizing and facilitating this program.

News and Notes

Educational Leadership:

- *Working with our outside service providers EMCOR, Venture Communications and LaFramboise Water to maintain a safe operating environment for our students.*
- *Promoting the importance of family involvement in the learning process by initiating/participating in family engagement programs made possible through the after-school grant funds.*

Facilities:

- *We are connected to solar!! I have been working directly with Michael Chambers, Dean Petrucelli and Deb Richards to complete the final phase of the PV/Roof project. Deb enlisted the help of our Eversource liaison to help facilitate this final agreement with Eversource. Once all the final paperwork is assembled, Rob Ellsworth will facilitate a meeting of the Town Roof Committee to take the steps needed to close the project.*
- *Thanks to continued Town support, three more of our classrooms and our staff room now have new ceilings. It was determined to change the plan from a dropped ceiling to a dry wall ceiling for the two staff bathrooms. The Town account received credit for this change. Lory Kneeland will be doing this project. Due to the location of the lighting fixtures in the grade K classroom, some new light fixtures needed to be purchased and installed.*
- *As you may have heard, we experienced rust in our water system this week. Personnel from LaFramboise, with the support of Dale Lundy and Lory Kneeland, assisted us in resolving the issue. Carole McCombe notified families and recommended that children bring in bottled water as we worked to resolve the issue. We conducted our quarterly testing of the water. Mis-timed backflushing of our system appears to be the main cause of the issue. Our system, however, is aging and it is recommended that, in the near future, the BOE Facilities Committee meet with staff from LaFramboise to review the status of the system and receive recommendations for improvement.*

Communication and Collaboration:

- *Ongoing communication with our bus dispatcher to monitor the use of the additional van for high school students. At this point in time, the van continues to be needed. We plan to meet again to discuss the continued need for this van next year once more information as to the location of our student population for next year is known.*

- *Continued conversation with other small districts regarding the possibility for shared contracted services, e.g. busing.*
- *Continued conversation and meetings with the leadership of EastConn and other small districts to discuss additional ways in which EastConn can support small school districts in the areas of contracted services and professional development.*

Finance:

- *With the support of Deb Richards and Dean Petrucelli (architect), I continue to work with the staff from the Department of Administrative Services to gain as much reimbursement as possible for our combined Roof/ PV project. The recent discussions have focused on the approximately \$22,511.28 of the expenditures that was reclassified as ineligible expenses due to the location of the district offices in the school building and two invoices from S/P in the amount of \$4500 and \$3800 were considered duplicates.*
- *The audit is complete. As mentioned previously, Deb Richards, Lisa Kellermann, Kymberli Gaylor, and I spent much time with the new auditor regarding the audit of the 2022-2023 budget. Now, much time is being spent making the adjustments. After much discussion and many changes our 2022-2023 budget is still within our original allocation of \$4,212,627. A total of \$50,471.59 of the expenditures made in 2022-2023 is in the process of being moved to the 2023-24 budget. These include payment of yearly, multi-year subscription payments, and payments on account for anticipated expenditures in oil, technology subscriptions, professional development, and attorney fees These changes are reflected in the object report you will receive with this packet.*
- *Mark your calendars: Budget Hearing: May 28 at 7:00 PM and Town Meeting: June 11 at 7:00 PM.*

Comments on selected agenda items

XI. Unfinished Business

A. High School Discussion

At its last meeting, the BOE opted to consider a review of the programs offered by Woodstock Academy and other nearby high schools in the fall. This agenda item provides the BOE with the opportunity to revisit that decision and discuss a plan of action, if desired, for moving forward with this review. It also provides the administration with the information needed for facilitating this review. Included in your packet, for information only, are documents provided by E.O. Smith High School.

XII. New Business

A. Resignation of Paraprofessional

After more than 23 years of dedicated service to Eastford students, Daniel Lussier submitted his resignation.

B. Policies Recommended for Repeal

Following discussion at their April meeting, policy committee members are recommending to the BOE the repeal of policies 6146, 6154 and 6155.

C.-F. Policies 5131.911, 5119, 1100, 4125/4225, 5000, and 5130.

These policies are included for a first reading. After reviewing recommended policy changes provided by Shipman & Goodwin in response to new legislation, members of the

Policy Committee are recommending the BOE, after review, adopt the updated S&G policies including some district specific information where needed. To assist with BOE review, Lauren Barlow will provide additional information as needed.

XIV. Financial Reports

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

Based on the inclusion of charges from the 2022-2023 budget (see above) and changes in tuitions and staffing needs, we will be recommending the BOE accept some transfer requests, which will be sent via email prior to the meeting.