

Superintendent's Report
By Michael L. Wood

November 19, 2014

1. **Athletic Competitions:** Our student athletes have done a phenomenal job this season. While it's great to have winning seasons, we found out that our field hockey team was selected as the MIAA Field Hockey Sportsmanship Award winner! This award is presented to a team that has demonstrated a sincere commitment to the highest ideals and objectives of sportsmanship, teamwork, fair play, respect for opponents, ethics and citizenship during their season of play. This is a tremendous honor for the coaches, athletes, and parents. Ms. Rich will be in to update the complete season at a future meeting.
2. **Student Advisory:** I met with Dr. Graham and the Student Advisory Committee last week to discuss the honor roll, technology and the student start times. It was great to hear their insights and to learn how they see things going at our high school.
3. **Chapter 70 Foundation Commission:** The Commission held its first of six public hearings in Danvers on Monday night. The hearing had 150 participants and we heard suggestions as to where to make changes in the formula. Special education, health insurance and technology costs were mentioned most frequently. Educator salaries and charter school costs were close runners up. The next hearing is on December 15th in Somerset.
4. **MASC Training Modules:** The training is being mapped out on with the Chair and I through a conversation with MASC.
5. **Superintendent Goals (Draft #3):** I have submitted a revised set of goals for the 2014 school year. They are guided by the draft District Improvement Plan and the evaluation policy the school committee has approved. For clarification, these are goals that I have chosen based on feedback from previous evaluations, the Board at our meetings, and a sense of need for professional growth. There is another tool that is the evaluation tool, which is also enclosed, that speaks to the standards that are for superintendents (similar to educator standards for teachers.) I added the baselines as suggested by one of our committee members.
6. **District Improvement Plan:** The plan was updated with baselines from our last meeting. It is in your packet for review for a planned vote at this meeting.
7. **Honor Roll:** I have included the latest proposal for Honor Roll (see power point). It's been an evolution of discussion among our educators, principals, and parents. I think that it achieves our goals of making it an academic honor, valuing all content, and ensuring that kids who want it will have to challenge themselves to earn it. At this time I am recommending only changing the middle school honor roll. I will be back in the spring to make recommendations for changes in the high school honor roll.
8. **Enrollment Projections:** NESDEC representatives will be attending a future meeting to discuss the enrollment projections for the district looking out into the future for ten years.

9. **Parent and Family Engagement:** The calendar committee has begun its deliberations. We have five parents on the committee.
10. **Parent and Family Engagement: Kindergarten Planning** -I will be sending out invitations to the perspective kindergarten parents for next year to discuss early childhood education. The meeting is slated for the Florence Sawyer Auditorium on December 2nd.
11. **Parent, Family and Community Engagement:** We convened a walkthrough of the parking area at the high school on November 13th. The purpose was for administrators to show areas of concern for traffic and pedestrian traffic flow and to show parking concerns. We were also fortunate to hear from our neighbors about their concerns for when the high school hosts events and the impact of on street parking. The Bolton Police and Town Administrator were on hand to hear the concerns as well. Bill Cleary will be building plans and recommendations to address the traffic flow and parking concerns into his budget (scheduled maintenance.)
12. **Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment:** I continue to facilitate the conversation around our health curriculum, specifically looking at risky behaviors noted in our Emerson Youth Risk Behavior Survey data from 2012. This is a PK - 12 overview.
13. **Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment:** The nurses, interventionists and health teachers have started their exploration of a drug and alcohol screening tool from the Department of Public Health. The full training will be soon and the pilot will take place this spring. It is very similar to the suicide prevention screening we implemented several years ago.
14. **Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment:** At our recent early release educators worked to further their unit development using technology and the software ATLAS. In many cases, educators have surpassed the expectation and begun to outline more units of study.
15. **Coordinator of Student Wellness:** I have asked Donna Linstrom to lead the Office of Student Wellness for the remainder of the school year. Donna is a veteran school nurse in the district and is doing a great job already with several initiatives we had begun this summer. Among all of her tasks she will be convening the first meeting of the year of the School Health Advisory Committee.
16. **Evaluation Data:** Recently the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education published the evaluation data it collected in June from all of the districts across the Commonwealth. Our data can be found by district and by school on:

<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/teacher.aspx?orgcode=07250000&orgtypecode=5&leftNavId=12505&>

This first year of data is a baseline. We are all learning how to implement the new model, use the software, and develop our understanding of the standards. As we learn, the data will change. It is also just one data point and does not represent the sum total of who we are as a district or who you are as an educator. Like all data, it is important to reflect upon it and see how it can inform our practice along using other data points we believe are important and valid.

Have a great week.

