
Superintendent Report – June 2019

Dr. Pam Vogel

Inter-Agency Regional Task Force

This group continues to meet and we have had good involvement from a number of community people and agencies. The next meeting was June 4. At that time, we discussed the possibility of starting a student support group, such as Alateen, in the school. It's expected that, if we can form this group, we are looking at meeting times between 4:30 and 5:30 PM and on specific days of the week.

We also have a scheduled presentation on June 12 from the group Freedom from Chemical Dependency. We have been promoting this social media, twitter, and through emails and flyers to parents. It will be at 6 PM and in Room 133 at the High School. This was arranged by Salisbury Central School and is open to everyone. We hope that we have a number of parents and community members who will attend.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1abnYAlmQmBjxAdyOGH_gcAuwTfKIkf9d/view?usp=sharing

Legislative Update

There have been a number of proposals that have passed either the House or the Senate. I have attached two separate summaries. The information in the narrative is from the lobbying group for CAPSS that keeps us informed. The chart is for our information (working notes and data. Not for public distribution or use. Unaudited and unverified data. May 29, 2019).

May 29 Updates:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NW4jHE4aXNkYXnrA9gEQ7N-cKg-4Q04U/view?usp=sharing>

May 30 Updates:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yX3u9qTjM8MlVj78nD5wWdiezhYDVEKz/view?usp=sharing>

Special Olympics

We are now preparing for the State Games on June 7 and 8 on the campuses of Yale University and Southern CT University. We have 11 students who will attend, as well as 12 High School student volunteers, one of our Pupil Services Occupational Therapists, and a number of our Special Education paraprofessionals who will assist students. I will be attending both days, also. Traci Marshall is the Developmental Swimming coach and the athletes will compete on June 7. Several of our students who compete in swimming use wheelchairs, but are still able to participate, with the help of swimming devices. Letitia Garcia-Tripp is the Athletics coach (Track and Field) and the athletes in the running and softball throw competitions will compete on June 8. We are very happy to have such excellent participation this first year.

Smarter Balanced Assessment

Testing is now complete and it has gone well. Our administrative team discussed ways to make the testing less stressful for students and asked that a number of these methods be used this year. They included 45 minutes of testing in one day, instead of several hours. Students were told that they could begin the next day where they left off in the test, so there was no need to rush. Also, students took the content area test with the teacher who instructs in that area. Students were reminded to take time and review their work. Snacks or breakfast for all were encouraged prior to the test, with reminders from teachers and principal that they are to do their very best on the assessment. We will not have the assessment results for several months, but anticipate that we should show improvement. We will spend time at the June 20 Administration Meeting to discuss the strategies that were successful and ways we can improve even more, going forward.

Exit "interviews" for 8th graders

The Administration team discussed how we should conduct a survey with 8th grade students, to learn how they select the high school they plan to attend. The consensus was to do this through an online survey and it was conducted in May. This information will assist us in knowing why students/families select their HS. I should have the data to share with the

End of Year Reviews/Evaluations

These are now being conducted. I evaluate each Principal and Director of Pupil Services, Assistant Superintendent, and Business Manager, and Executive Secretary. Principals know that all teachers and their support staff members are to be evaluated this spring, as well as Supervisors who will evaluate their staff. Goals for the coming school year are to be established, so that we can begin the New Year with a clear understanding of areas we all need to improve.

We are changing one manner in which goals for teachers are established, beginning in the fall. This past year, we requested that every teacher have one goal in each domain. The domains are for 1) Planning, 2) Classroom Environment, 3) Instruction and Assessment, and 4) Professional Responsibilities. I have asked principals and supervisors to work with the teachers to determine the four goals that teachers need most and the only requirement is that everyone must have at least one goal in the area of Instruction/Assessment and one goal in the area of Professional Responsibilities. The rationale for this is that these two areas always need our focus, so if there is a need for more emphasis on criteria in these two domains, we will place our emphasis there.

Policies and Protocols for Field Trips

Principals have been reminded to review their policies and procedures for their schools, as some of the policies may be outdated and the protocols need to address a number of issues that may arise. It is recommended that each school use a checklist to ascertain that everything has been addressed prior to any trip, whether it be in our area for a day or out of our area for multiple days.

Graduations

As always, June is a very busy month with field trips, end of year projects, and the year culminates with graduations. Lisa Carter and I will be ensuring that at least one of us is attending the six K-8 school graduations. The High School graduation is on Tuesday, June 18 and the Region One Board members and administrators will be at the event.

Friday, June 14

6:00 PM Kent Center School Graduation
6:00 PM Salisbury Central School Graduation
7:00 PM LHK School Graduation

Monday, June 17

6:00 PM Cornwall Consolidated School Graduation
6:00 PM Sharon Center School Graduation
7:00 PM North Canaan Elementary School Graduation

Tuesday, June 18

6:30 PM HVRHS Graduation