

Superintendent Report – March 2020

Dr. Pam Vogel

Coronavirus Communication

As I have written communication to the staff and families, this has been shared with the Boards. There will be a meeting soon with the administrative team to consider a plan in the event that students are not allowed to go to their schools to receive their education.

CABE has issued a Pandemic Policy- #6114.8, which I will be asking each principal to compare to what each school has currently.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Hs9sRQUfZgHVASKRhUmV0tYtRg1nTpMT/view?usp=sharing>

I will keep everyone updated with any new information we receive related to the Coronavirus.

Student Tuition for Region One Schools

There has been more recent discussion regarding enrollments for students who tuition in. After meeting with Carl Gross, Director of Pupil Services; Martha Schwaikert, Supervisor of Special Education; Sam Herrick, and myself, in consultation with Attorney Craig Meuser, we have determined that there is a need for a joint meeting with Region One and ABC in the near future. For now, we will accept students at the rates that have been established for all students, including students who receive special education services and need minimal accommodations. However, to plan for the 2021-2022 school years it will be important that we discuss how all schools are accepting students with similar criteria and with similar tuition costs.

Regional Middle School Sports and Activities

It has been agreed that all schools will participate in some manner in the new Middle School Sports and Activities Program. This is a sharing agreement for one year which will be revisited in January of 2021. Anne MacNeil has helped to lead the program and now boards are to consider the representatives who may want to serve as members of an Advisory Committee to work with her in the planning. We will also need to have a sponsor for the Middle School Robotics program.

Social and Emotional Health & Family Engagement

Our administrative team has had good discussions on how we are sharing the Developmental Assets Survey information. All principals will be sharing their data from 2018-2019 with their staff to determine areas identified as “high needs”. We have held discussions as to whether or not our current programs are sufficiently addressing concern areas for students. More on this topic was discussed at the February Inter-Agency Task Force meeting and with the Professional Learning Committee (PLC) comprised of teachers and administrators across the region.

HYSB has started a new program to provide support to students who are impacted by addiction. This is similar to what Al-Anon would be, if we could provide that program here in our area. Since we cannot, due to the fact that there must be a sponsor in our area and more training is involved, HYSB has graciously stepped up to provide this once a week after school.

With a sub-committee of the Inter-Agency Task Force, we are looking into the High School and/or Middle Schools utilizing the Freedom from Chemical Dependency (FCD) Program and starting a part of the program whereby mentor students team up with younger students to be role models to MS students. This requires involving students who are not using drugs or alcohol and are focusing on healthy life habits for adolescents. More information will come from this in the next month or two.

We have talked about the need to ensure that every middle school student is involved in some sort of activity outside of school. Also, that our schools strive to increase activities to engage families and build community. All of our schools are planning family events and those that have held these this school year have experienced increased participation, which is very positive.

Technology

Mike Ellington attended our February 20 Administration Meeting and shared that the technology personnel in our schools are working very collaboratively. Much of the recent meetings center around school security and how to use the vendors in our region as part of the team. Mike is working with the team to try to help each school have at least three backups, in the event that any school gets hacked.

Regional Strategic Plan for School Improvement

Work has begun on this plan by the Administrative Team. More time will be spent on this in March, with the expectation that we will review this again with different groups in April and will have the final document ready to go to the schools in May.

Volunteer Policy and Regulations

Principals will be bringing this policy to boards soon. It is important that we have this in place for all overnight or overseas trips for volunteers.

Superintendent Mid-Year Evaluation

At the February ABC Meeting, I shared my progress report with the Board chairs.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yB0AR7byDLN-6csz5rIswJ4d4RfQDF3I/view?usp=sharing>

Also attached are the Next Generation Accountability Reports which show various criteria for each school. These reports are produced for all public schools in Connecticut and include data for

English/Language Arts, Mathematics, access to the arts, performance on the Physical Fitness Test, attendance, and other areas.

In the Next Generation Accountability Reports, those areas where our students scored higher than the state average are circled.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-nzwfoxTT7CYgfP4S8TObF_jvLtW790e/view?usp=sharing

Also attached are the results from our first year for the Next Generation Science Assessment, given statewide.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mrKntPFn0WsGNmdzOOGtCPtZYjwQXQ8f/view?usp=sharing>

Our students in all schools did extremely well and scored higher than the state average. We want to especially thank Nur, our High School science teacher, who obtained the state training and worked with the teachers to help everyone understand the expectations with science curriculum.

It is evident that students are showing increased achievement in a number of areas and I credit the leaders and teaching staff who have implemented our programs and given significant focus to see that all students achieve at higher levels.

CCS Principal Search

The search for the Cornwall School principal is taking place this month. We expect to name the new principal before the end of March.