

October 19, 2019

Report to the Sharon Board of Education

By: Bob Whelan – Region One Board of Education representative from Sharon, Connecticut

At the October 2019 Board Meeting, these initiatives and presentations were the key focus:

- Jane Doe No More
- First Generation College Students, HYSB relationship
- Data related to A/P courses and the Free/Reduced Lunch program
- Regional Technology Updates
- Parent/Teacher conferences and Student-led conferences
- Policies – first read
- FOI request production

Leticia Garcia-Tripp exemplifies the spirit of community and collegiality at HVRHS, and always seeks to engage us all in discourse regarding issues of our times. The survivors of sexual assault make us all recognize this as a scourge of our times, and the Board is grateful for her courage to stand with survivors to bring them out of the shadows and working to bring us all into the conversation. Leticia is a model for all of the community who “Contribute to HVRHS”.

Kim McLeod and new Guidance Department member Robert Joeckel brought the Board up to speed on the myriad of challenges that face the department. As the “Level 1 triage” center for the school, the department works tirelessly to recognize challenges such as the identification of potential First Generation College-bound Students, and assisting them in overcoming the hurdles that confront this cohort. There is also discussion of a closer relationship with Housatonic Youth Services Bureau and the possibility of having more on-site time (at HVRHS) with the specialists from HYSB. A tremendous partnership.

Mr. Strever presented data which continues to show the changing demographics at HVRHS. The data related to A/P adoption by students is encouraging, while the data related to the number of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch points up a different set of challenges. Mr. Strever’s presentation is available upon request.

Mike Ellington continues to spearhead the efforts to bring the Region’s technology resources into a common view. There are certainly local board needs which need to be accommodated, but efforts in standardizing the systems and support paradigms will ultimately pay benefits, in ways both fiscal and pedagogical.

Mr. Strever has pursued the call for Parent/Teacher conferences, and the Board opened the times to make both the Parent/Teacher conferences and Student-led conferences a part of the calendar. Please follow the Twitter or Facebook feeds for dates & times.

The Region One Board is losing Jennifer Weigel of Salisbury, who has tirelessly worked to modify existing policies or create new policies based on evolving circumstances. She will be greatly missed, as she is not standing for re-election in November. She finished her work by providing a first reading of some new policies and rewrites of some old. The meeting this month was dominated by these discussions. As these were first readings, many thoughts were offered. November will see a second reading.

Lastly, the ongoing FOI document production discussion had a place in this meeting. It is clear that the RSCC has been complying with the FOI Commission's rulings and has been producing information as swiftly as possible. Given the fact that these data requests are broad and unfocused, the data review takes a great deal of time. Attorney Tom Mooney has agreed to produce a timeline related to the data production, overlaid with the actions of the requestors as well as the RSCC's response, and the FOI Commission's requests and/or mandates in the imbroglio, and may actually make a presentation at the November Region 1 meeting.

Please feel free to email or call with any questions or comments.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Whelan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bob Whelan
Region One Board of Education Representative from Sharon, Connecticut
rwhelan@region1schools.org
860-364-0452