

Superintendent Report – January 2020

Dr. Pam Vogel

MS Regional Sports and Activities

On Monday night, January 6, The Region One Board will discuss the program and vote on whether or not to include the program in the 2020-2021 Shared Services/Region One budget. The final results will be shared with each school.

China Teacher Exchange

We have already had interest from several teachers in going to China for a Teacher Exchange and we expect that this arrangement may happen this spring. It is exciting to see interest in a program that will not only expand cultural understanding for teachers, but can be extended to have email and video exchanges between classrooms in China and at Region One schools.

Orientation for New Board Members

With the help of CAFE, our new board member orientation will be held on Thursday, January 23 from 5:30-8:00 pm. There will be a light supper served. Both Nick Caruso and Rebecca Adams from CAFE will be leading the discussion. We invite all board members, not only new members, to attend. The meeting will be held in either Room 133 or the HS Library. If weather precludes us from meeting on this date, we will move the meeting to Thursday, January 30.

HVHRS Proud

We can be very proud of our high school staff, as they have had a number of student-focused activities this school year to show students how much they care and want to know their students. Beginning with the Open House and then, in December, each student receiving a hand written card from a teacher (thank you to Beth Foulds and others), then the winter break send-off on December 20. The High School staff put together an amazing afternoon that day. Students and staff wearing blue and gold, music from the band, a display of robotics, with balls flying into the crowd of students, t-shirts given away, games on the gym floor that everyone got involved in, and then gift card giveaways, capped off with cookies and milk for all the students as they left the event, made for a great day! Students were all smiles, as it truly was a collective effort to let the students that they are cared about and that we want them to have a happy holiday and to return back to us from the break, safe and sound. Thank you to Ian and Steve and to Dr. Scott Fellows and Mr. Liam O'Reilly for organizing. It's wonderful how the staff recognizes and practices personalized attention to each and every student.

January 2 Professional Learning Day

Lisa Carter arranged a very engaging day for teachers. The sessions were held at North Canaan Elementary for teachers in grades PK-8 and at the High School for grades 9-12. I went into a number of sessions and could see that the discussions were relevant to each teacher, as they were engaged and pleased to be focused on a topic that was important to them and allowed them time to discuss these topics with their colleagues. Thank you to Lisa for arranging a very well organized day, who also took input from the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee and the administrators. A thank you also to Dr. Alicia Roy, the North Canaan principal, for hosting the PK-8 staff.

Weather

It has been a challenging winter already, with four snow days at this point in time. An explanation as to how decisions are made was sent out to families and staff this past month.

<http://www.region1schools.org/main/news/notifications-for-school-closings-delays-and-dismi-81>

School Messenger has been changed so that any student, parent, staff member, or anyone who wishes to receive notices for particular events, can set this for their preferences. We recommend that Board members also sign up for School Messenger, so that everyone has notice of cancellations when they occur. Directions on how to sign up for School Messenger are also on this same page.

2020-2021 School Calendar

The Administrative Team met to discuss a draft calendar and came to agreement on some changes to the calendar. The revised draft calendar will be presented to the teachers in each school for feedback. At the January 16 Administration Meeting, we will hear the recommendations from teachers and then present a new proposed calendar to the ABC Committee on January 22. Following that, the calendar will go to each of the Boards for their review and feedback.