

## Superintendent Report – September 2019

### Dr. Pam Vogel

#### Great Opening Day

Our exciting first day back with all staff on August 21 was held in the HVRHS auditorium. We welcomed everyone, introduced new teachers and administrators, and presented those teachers with “Milestones” with a memento apple.

Those who were recognized for their milestone years were:

Name	School	Milestone Years: (25,35,40)	Hire Date
Lee Sohl	Kent Center School	28 (was not recognized 3 years ago)	8/1/1991
Sharon Russell	Lee Kellogg School (Pupil Services)	25	8/30/1994
Rebecca Gaschel-Clark	SCS (Pupil Services)	25	8/30/1994
Karen Lundeen	Salisbury Central	25	8/30/1994
Kristen Neary	Salisbury Central	25	8/30/1994
LeighAnn Merrill	NCES	25	8/1994
Pam Scribner	Kent Center School (Pupil Services)	35	8/29/1984
Kathryn Murray	Salisbury Central	35	8/29/84
David Poirier	Kent Center School		8/30/1994

In the past, Region One Staff (such as Title 1) or teachers who moved from one school to another in Region One “started over” with the hire years on record. From now on, we will recognize the total years for anyone who works in Region One schools.

At the opening day, everyone was offered great food, courtesy of our HS Kitchen Staff, who prepared an assortment of breakfast pizzas for all dietary needs, fruit, and beverages. Mrs. Carter, Mr. Strever and I discussed the importance of developing positive and caring relationships with students, the importance of social-emotional learning, and how it affects the Portrait of a Graduate. The final reminder to the staff was the message: *One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of a child.*” - Carl Jung

We are eager for a new year— one that emphasizes the importance of an aligned and rigorous curriculum, Schools with a renewed focus on literacy and math and demonstrated comprehension in all subject areas, understanding assessment data and how we can support students more, and social-emotional learning.

## **Stakeholder Communication**

### **Social Media**

We continue to upload photos and information about our school activities on our **Region One Shared Services Facebook** page. Each school is requested to keep their school Facebook page active as well. We have found that an increased number of parents and community members respond positively to this shared information.

Please consider “liking” the Region One Shared Services Facebook page, as well as any of our Region One school’s Facebook sites.

### **Region One Newsletter**

We still will create a quarterly newsletter that will be sent electronically to all parents and others who are listed in our Power School system as wishing to receive messages. The newsletter is also posted on the Region One website. If you know of parents or citizens who wish to receive the newsletter through email or text and are not currently, encourage them to let Tina know and we will make certain they are added to the list.

In the fall newsletter, we will be highlighting the new teachers and summer and fall student activities

### **Middle School Regional Sports**

Anne MacNeil organized a summer meeting for the Committee and another meeting is scheduled for this month, prior to the September 25 ABC Committee meeting, where this discussion will be one of the main topics.

### **June Meeting Regional Task Force (Notes)**

This group met in June and will be meeting again on September 17. We consistently have good attendance at these meetings by those who have a strong commitment to addressing substance use through prevention and intervention.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1veBmoy9LUSs8DX3wln6xDSV1GuLeXtb0/view?usp=sharing>

### **A Response to Crisis and Drills**

There has been concern raised by staff and students regarding how we respond to questions about safety drills, particularly with the increased number of tragedies from gun violence. The state requires that every school hold a number of lock-down drills during the school year.

CABE reached out to the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence for guidance as to how we can answer the questions to parents and how teachers should respond to students unsettled by the safety drills that districts conduct to prepare them for real emergencies. The Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence (Dr. Mark Brackett) provided information to be shared with CABE members. The CT Department of Education and Commissioner Miguel Cardona, supports the use of this resource.

This letter will also be shared with all principals and requested that this be discussed with their staff in their schools. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nosKbXrvaehC-dcXrZ26PZFau7Xjh4yK/view?usp=sharing>

### **Changes in Laws that Affect Education**

There have been many new laws enacted that affect education. This document was developed by Attorney Mark J. Sommaruga. I have reviewed the laws and have highlighted those that I feel will have some or greater impact on us.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZYuOTCLs1G--gGMSk\\_v-rlcCtKpqYkbs/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZYuOTCLs1G--gGMSk_v-rlcCtKpqYkbs/view?usp=sharing)

### **August 20 Region One Administration Meeting Notes**

The notes from the meeting will provide information regarding our focus areas for the 2019-2020 school year and beyond.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O8utRwFS0Pk7QRgPJXqfJAXlzpr\\_722h/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1O8utRwFS0Pk7QRgPJXqfJAXlzpr_722h/view?usp=sharing)

### **Professional Learning Conferences**

I will be attending a weekend conference in Santa Monica from October 4-6. This is the National Superintendent's Roundtable Group, which I joined this past year. It should be a great weekend of learning, with Sir Kenneth Robinson presenting on this topic:

*In the race to raise test scores, what have we lost? Why is it that, within a few years of entering formal education, the curiosity and excitement about learning of so many young children has been dulled into a search for the correct bubble? As Sir Kenneth Robinson asked in a seminal TED talk: Do schools kill creativity?"*

Following this, I will be taking a few days of vacation, to avoid trips between the east and west coast. I have been invited to attend the *2019 China Annual Conference for International Education- "Education 2035: A Dialogue with the Future of the World"* that begins on October 11. The country of honor is Japan.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RaIEi9qshrX8TS6IWIZMZfTt30X-pyQv/view?usp=sharing>

I leave for the conference on October 10 and the conference dates are October 11-19. There was an application process through AASA and I was notified in July that I was one of the fortunate participants. I will be a part of an international delegation from AASA (American Association of School Administrators). There will be 11 superintendents from the U.S. attending. We will be attending the conference and visiting schools to interact with global educators.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nS1fRpvqrUhlbNENJ8YGteRPuf61g05c/view?usp=sharing>

The costs associated with the conference (registration, lodging, meals) are paid for by AASA, with the exception of airfare. The total airfare cost from Hartford to Santa Monica, then to Beijing, then returning to Hartford is under \$1200.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12jCQ6yyme33jJKhxNPRMYg9xvNtMsxrH-/view?usp=sharing>

### **Connecticut ASCD**

As you may remember, a number of our teachers and administrators have attended ASCD Conferences in the last few years. ASCD is an international education organization, very well known for its professional learning opportunities through books, journals and conferences.

Generally, every state in the U.S. has its own ASCD state affiliate. About ten years or more ago, Connecticut's state affiliate folded, due to a decrease in offerings for members and a decrease in board members who wanted to serve to continue to plan professional opportunities. I have been talking with ASCD International for the past four years about resurrecting the affiliate, as I expected Connecticut to have one when I moved to the state. I have been in discussion with CAPSS over the past year to discuss a partnership between the two agencies, which would result in a state affiliate for Connecticut. This has now been formed. I am serving as President for 2019-2020 and CAPSS Professional Learning Director, Terry Carroll, will be the Executive Director. We will be developing a working board for the affiliate and utilize the expertise of excellent state educators.

CAPSS has done an excellent job of offering state learning opportunities for administrators, but the state has been greatly lacking in those for teachers. We will also be working in partnership with the Northeastern states: New Hampshire (a very active affiliate), Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island. Representatives from the states met in July in New Hampshire and discussed ways we could work together and support each other.

The first opportunity for teachers (and administrators) for our CT ASCD state conference will be for educators to hear Dr. Tom Guskey present.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GHIpGM\\_I8dAu0iuS5NbuCNKmUIPlh1SN/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GHIpGM_I8dAu0iuS5NbuCNKmUIPlh1SN/view?usp=sharing)

We have 150 educators registered currently. Another spring conference will be planned.

### **Brooker Memorial Dental Center**

We received a letter notifying our schools of the educational program provided to Region One. 1041 students were provided the program and 324 (31%) students participated in the program, an increase of 27%. The Center wishes to increase the program through more communication sent home to parents.

The 2018-2019 program cost was \$45,544.67. Families are not billed for services. The Foundation for Community Health funded \$25,335.26. \$14,661.80 was collected from insurance companies, and a local donation from Wendy Eichman helped to offset the cost of goodie bags at North Canaan Elementary. The Brooker Memorial provided the remaining cost as an in-kind donation.

The Program Director will be reaching out to the individual schools to coordinate paperwork and parent information sessions.

### **Negotiations**

Currently, Canaan Elementary School (L.H. Kellogg) and Cornwall Consolidated School are engaged in certified contract negotiations. Sharon Center and Kent Center will begin this month. Sam Herrick and I are both involved in these as representatives from Region One administration.