

We are happy to have been appointed to the position of Interim Assistant Superintendent for the Region One Schools. We both have been in the Region for a number of years and have found our new work to be energizing. Moreover, working closely with Lisa Carter has allowed us to gel as a team and we are looking forward to the rest of our time in this position.

We'd like to highlight some of the work that was completed during the summer.

Staffing

Many new teachers were hired to fill vacancies created by teachers who retired or moved out of the Region as follows. We met with the new teachers on Tuesday, 25 August to orient them to the Region and the most important topics for beginning teachers. Additionally, we assigned mentors to those teachers who needed them and the mentors attended the New Teacher Orientation for the morning to have preliminary discussions with their mentee.

School	Teachers and Grade/Subject Area
Cornwall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mary Kay Ravenola, Principal ● Brittany Perrone, Counselor ● Zachary Hebert, Grades 5-8 English ● Jennifer Hill, Reading Interventionist
HVRHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Patricia Vanicky, Art
Kent Center School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jennifer Moros, K-4 Music ● Biz Bernard, Grade 4
Lee H. Kellogg School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christine Dascanio, Grades 5-8 ELA ● Eliza Paolucci, Grades 5-8 Social Studies
North Canaan Elementary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lisa Bradley, Grade 1 ● Jennifer LaCoss, Reading Interventionist ● Sarah Ponkos, Math Coach/Interventionist ● Sarah Braun, Grades 7-8 Science ● Kate Early, Grades 7-8 Mathematics ● Katherine Hunt, Grades 5-6 Mathematics ● Jeffrey Durkin, Grade 3
Salisbury Central School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elizabeth Houck, Grade 3 ● Sarah Freund, Grade 2
Sharon Center School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None
Pupil Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Michelle Decker, Special Education (HVRHS)

**Assistant Superintendent Report
Region One Schools
August/September 2020**

Curriculum

The following work was completed over the summer:

- K-8
 - New curricula for English/Language Arts K-3 was written by EdAdvance and is being taught by teachers at those grade levels. Further review is scheduled for the Professional Learning Week.
 - Middle school mathematics teachers reviewed the Illustrative Math Program for grades 6-8 with the goal of revising the “Compacted Math” curricula so students could complete Algebra 1 in eighth grade and enter High School in Algebra 2.
 - Middle school science teachers reviewed the existing NGSS units for grades 5-8 and revised, reworked, or eliminated those that were not helping students to discern critical scientific concepts and added additional units that would. Moreover, they expressed a desire to create a digital library of units that would allow for more student and teacher choice in topics.
- 9-12 (most of these are still in process)
 - English/Language Arts: English 9
 - Science: Chemistry and Coding
 - Social Studies: Global History I
 - AgEd: Work to ensure alignment of courses to standards in STEM.

Professional Learning (PL)

Regional PL

A 5-day Regional Professional Learning Conference was organized for the first week in September that included some required topics, some optional topics, and a generous number of topics from which teachers could choose, depending on their areas of interest. After a few technological hiccups, we offered a comprehensive program for adult learning. The 5-day program included:

Required Covid-19 Training	Distance Learning Strategies
Training in Recognizing Trauma in Students	Collaborative Grade-Level and Department-Level Team Work Time
Social-Emotional Learning (activities)	Vertical Team Work Time
Using GoogleClassroom and Seesaw	Teaching in an 80-minute Period
Using Zoom in the Classroom	Using PowerSchool
Required Health and Safety Training	Sessions on Various Technologies

**Assistant Superintendent Report
Region One Schools
August/September 2020**

Upcoming Local PL and Regional PL

We will be using the feedback from the 5-day PL Conference to work with the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC) to determine Regional PL needs. Individual Leadership Teams in the schools will be using data on student achievement and social-emotional learning to develop their plans for the local PL days and the local PL half-days throughout the year.

Teacher Evaluation

Amy Tepper from Revision Learning will continue to work with Region One Administrators and teachers on topics necessary for us to continue to offer a quality teacher evaluation program.

The State has proposed a modification to the existing Teacher Evaluation requirements that would have teacher evaluators focus on social-emotional learning. Members of the PDEC will be convened to determine whether (and how) we will adopt the new guidelines once the building administrators have had a chance to review the State's options.

Reopening Plans

Working very closely with Lisa Carter, we participated in nearly all of the Task Groups charged with developing the District Reopening Plan. Additionally, we worked with Lisa to qualitatively analyze responses from teachers, students, and parents about their experiences with Distance Learning last year. We used that information as we worked with the Task Groups to develop recommendations and expectations for this school year. We attended faculty and parent meetings devoted to discussions of the Local Reopening Plans.

We worked with teachers in the specialty areas (Ag Ed, Art, Music, Physical Education, and Technology Education) to determine the curricula and instructional strategies that would be needed to safely conduct their classes with the limitations imposed by Covid-19 (particularly the admonition against sharing of materials). Plans were developed for each group and shared with administrators.

Partnership with Johns Hopkins

We arranged for a partnership with Medicine for the Greater Good and Johns Hopkins to provide current information for students, staff and the Region One community. Staff training began on August 31, and they are scheduled for families and students in the coming weeks.

EL Programming

Ms. Huber continues her work in schools to support all of the EL students. At this time, Region One anticipates to have 30 EL students ranging from Early Kindergarten through Grade 12. The languages represented are Spanish, Arabic, Tagalog, and Chinese. The Covid-19 restrictions will

**Assistant Superintendent Report
Region One Schools
August/September 2020**

make her work a little different this year and she will be meeting with students remotely for some of her sessions.

Career/Work Experience Program

We have a meeting scheduled for mid-September to discuss Mary O'Neil's work in the Career and Work Experience program at the High School.