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August Board of Education Meeting Superintendent Communications

As summer comes to a close, we eagerly anticipate the opening of school. As educators we get to start fresh every year. The leadership team and I have been working very hard to prepare for the opening of school. In addition, we have been able to spend some time this summer attending professional development opportunities separately and together as a team. These opportunities help us strengthen our skills to be effective instructional leaders.

National Superintendent Certification

In July, I headed down to VA to complete my third round of classes for my National Superintendent Certification course. We discussed the concepts of communication, community engagement, organizational culture, and the importance of promoting a shared vision for quality teaching, building professional capacity, and addressing social emotional and academic learning: building a community of care and support for all students. I have already integrated many of these concepts in my leadership and will continue to share these ideas. I will complete this program in February 2020.

Shared Services

In this tenuous environment regarding small district legislation, regionalization, and other topics regarding small school districts, job security is becoming more and more of an issue. With that in mind Miss Demicco approached the superintendent with an idea and we have agreed. Canterbury will be sharing the services of our *Director of Finance and Operations* with Sprague. Part-time services will work for both Canterbury Public Schools as well as Sprague.

Strategy Visioning

The two- day Strategy Mapping Team Professional Development with the CT Center for School Change was extremely powerful and has laid the foundation for our strategic planning over the next few months. The executive strategic planning committee, alongside the Professional Development Evaluation Committee will be gathering stakeholder feedback from many different groups of people in Canterbury. Our first session was on July 25th when some key members from the community and staff of Canterbury joined together to provide valuable feedback on their “Vision of the Learner” in Canterbury Public Schools. The Board of Education will have their hand in providing feedback on September 10, from 6 to 7; so please mark your calendar. We will be inviting past, present, and future Board of Education members to the stakeholder feedback session regarding your “Vision of the Learner” and Canterbury Public Schools.

Comprehensive Residency Compliance

As a district, we have embarked on a comprehensive affirmation of all the residents of Canterbury Public Schools. We will be asking all families to provide residency documentation if anyone in their household attends any one of the Canterbury Public Schools or a designated High School. We are looking at all Pre-K to 8th students, all high school students, STEM, Magnet, Charter, and out-of-district placement households. Although this is a daunting task and some residents may feel it is an unnecessary step, we believe that this one-time comprehensive residency check will affirm that all students attending Canterbury Public Schools are indeed residents of the town of Canterbury. You may refer to the residency letter on the superintendent’s page on the website for further information.

Facilities

Please be aware that there are two ongoing projects occurring at this time. We are waiting for the state to contact us regarding our bid for reimbursement for the upcoming oil tank removal at CES. Once contact is made, we can move forward with that project. We have completed all the paperwork for the roof reimbursement and are checking our records to assure we have indeed received all those funds. A boiler at BMS broke in the spring; we went out to bid and received bids back. A vendor must be chosen, however, we do not have enough money in the CIP at this time to cover this project . The BOE will be discussing this at their August 13, 2019 BOE meeting.

Buses

At the April 9, 2019 Capital Improvement Plan Commission meeting, Missy Gill made a motion to eliminate the \$100,000 from line # 5117 bus replacement for a 2019-2020, due to the bus Leasing. We had a discussion at the CIP meeting regarding leasing versus purchasing and decided to remove the money so we could use the current money for leasing. At the June 9, Board of Ed. meeting the Board of Ed. made a motion to allow the superintendent and a BOE to work together to write an RFP regarding the leasing of buses and to place it on our website. This has been done. Bids are due on August 26th. There has been some conversation regarding the Board of Ed. and needing permission to use CIP funds that were set aside for bus purchases in order to use those funds for bus leasing. On June 24, the superintendent emailed the first selectman asking for confirmation that we can indeed use these funds toward a lease option for buses. On June 28th the first selectman said "the money in the CIP budget was approved by the town for the purchase of a bus. In order to fund a lease, a request for funding must be submitted to the committee for review goes to the usual approval process". We already had this conversation at CIP committee at their April 9th meeting. I do not know why we need to go and do it again. However, I have been inquiring about CIP meetings, but there have not been any CIP meetings this summer. The Last CIP meeting was on April 24th 2019. I encourage the Board of Ed. to attend the next CIP meeting and to urge the CIP committee to allow the **\$94,854** in funding that is set aside for bus purchases to be used for bus leasing.