



Superintendent Monthly Report

General Updates: September 14, 2021

Convocation

We held an in-person Convocation this year. A continental breakfast and southwest lunch were provided for staff. The theme of convocation was the importance of building community within the classroom with an emphasis on social emotional learning. We also talked about how the pandemic has reinforced our commitment to prepare students for careers in the middle of the 21st century. Our youngest learners were born in 2018 and are the high school class of 2036. Assuming they will retire at age 67, they will have a retirement date of 2085. Today's youth will be working in an economic era we can't even imagine. So what skills do they need? Some researchers believe that industry innovations will rise and fall within a 16-year window, whereas past innovations lasted a 100-years.

Convocation also provided a time for the whole staff to celebrate and thank several staff members for their years of service.

10 Years

Karen Gizio, Amy Teper, & Kim Waters

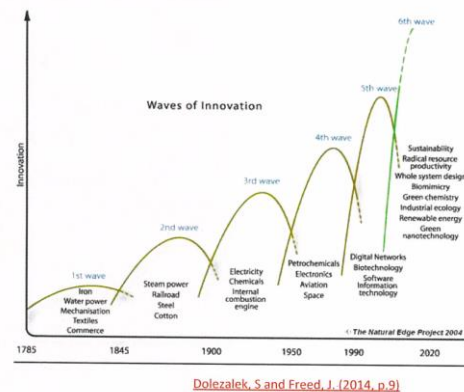
20 Years

Doreen Ayers, Kathy Faulkenberry, Dottie Horn, Kim Jodoin, Melissa Johnson, Roger Lajeunesse, Charlene Saunders, & Mary Tatro

35 Year

Carol Strafacci

The Pace of Change



Facilities

The hot days in August raised questions regarding our HVAC systems and ability to provide more spaces in each building with air conditioning. Attached is an overview that highlights our current systems. This summer we installed four new units in grade six wing at BMS. Over the next several weeks we will consider various options as we move forward in HVAC upgrades. We have funding in ARP ESSER to support some upgrades.

Our annual fire system inspection revealed several issues at BMS. The system is operational but is in need of an upgrade. I have authorized the project, which is quoted at \$21,500. The facilities Repair and Maintenance account in our local budget is \$30,000. I have since requested a CIP revision to fund the project, which the Board will discuss at its September meeting.

Other updates include the following:

Facility Project Updates	
Oil Tank Project	Tank is ordered
Phone System Upgrade	Complete
Wifi Upgrade	Complete
Grade 6 HVAC Install	Complete
CES AC Repair	98% Complete
CES Library Floor Replacement	Complete

Transportation

Throughout Connecticut there is a shortage of bus drivers that has reached a critical tipping point. Nearly every transportation organization is experiencing a shortage of drivers with a CDL license. Canterbury is no different and we'll experience disruptions in our routes on a frequent basis. The structure of our routes was modified this year to include a permanent sub driver on staff. That position remains vacant, as well as a van driver. Our transportation coordinator has put in an extraordinary number of hours to make daily adjustments and changes. The start of the year has presented many challenges. We are hopeful that once some consistent routines are established, we will experience some stability.

Food Services

As we implement new procedures in the cafeteria, many breakfast and lunch options will be reverting back to items served prior to the pandemic. With less repackaging requirements (COVID related), we should be able to return to more options for students. During this transition there will still be some limitations to what we offer. It is our intention to offer more fresh

options for our students. Throughout the year we will continue to review protocols and procedures to serve a quality breakfast and lunch experience for our students.

Prior to Labor Day lunch options reflect choices that are predetermined due to our current supplies of commodities and pre-purchased items. The NSLP increased reimbursement to about \$4.20 per meal, which will help offset the current increase in the cost of food will impact any increase in revenue. There are more students accessing the lunch program this year, which will create more flexibility in available options. Also impacting menu choices this year will be a continued disruption in the supply chain. Our vendors shared that one food processing plant is only operating at 30% capacity.

The kitchen at BMS is in need of a few repairs. The bottom oven is still broken and requires a part that is on order. The dishwasher likely needs a new hot water pressure valve. The commercial mixer needs to be sent for repair and other small items are needed.

Summer School Programming

Kristine Wernicki, Program Coordinator, did an exceptional job in supervising the program this year. Kristine was responsible for scheduling, parental communication, staff communications, transportation liaison, and teaching. Below are several highlights from our programs.

Theater and Art Enrichment

- There were 16 second and third graders in our first art session and 12 fourth and fifth graders in our theater program
- In Session 2 there were 15 fourth and fifth graders in art and 9 second and third graders in art
- Middle school art had 15 for pottery, 9 for murals, and 8 for photography
- All students in the second session filled out surveys with their feedback

Academic Enrichment- Grades 2-4

- 2nd Grade (8), Third Grade (4) Fourth Grade (7)
- Each grade level was in their own classroom and teachers rotated
- For the first two weeks each grade level had a science enrichment time and the second 2 weeks they participated in STEM challenges that accompanied a book
- In math, each group participated in number talks, games, and small groups to reinforce and review skills from the previous year
- In reading, the third and fourth grade groups participated in book clubs that had discussions and activities, second graders continued to work on phonics skills using games, small group hands-on activities, decodable readers, and more

Academic Enrichment- Middle School

- 5th Grade (2), 6th Grade (8), 7th Grade (5), and 8th Grade (1)

- The incoming fifth graders were included in this group to allow them the opportunity to get to know some of the middle school teachers- This worked well!
- In both math and reading they had time each day to work on their IReady pathway
- In math, they were working on skills based on feedback and goals from their teachers
- In reading, they were given the opportunity to work on their summer LA project, daily journal writing, and reading games

Jumpstart Program- Grades K and 1

- Kindergarten (8) and 1st Grade (5)
- There was a focus on learning routines and expectations such as recess, bus, hallway, handwashing and mask rules
- All students took a tour of the school and saw where their classroom would be
- Each group participated in a morning meeting that included a chance to practice speaking and listening and also a review/introduction of the Second Step listening rules and first lesson
- First grade skills covered- Heggerty daily lessons, guided writing, concepts of print, phonics work, read alouds
- Kindergarten skills covered- fine motor skills, Heggerty daily lessons, introduction of some letters and corresponding books and activities to go with it, read alouds