



## **Shaping Futures Together**

To: Dr. Donna Leake  
 From: Carole McCombe  
 Date: June 5, 2023  
 Subject: June Report to the Board of Education

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### **Field Trips:**

- Students in grades PK, 2, 3, and 4 will take their final monthly walking trip to the Eastford Public Library on separate, designated days in June.

### **Virtual Field Trips through the Center for Interactive Learning (CILC)**

Four teachers applied for and were awarded a grant for a free virtual program through CILC. The grant was sponsored by Internet2Community Anchor Program Scholarship. Teachers have won this award in the past. This year's recipients are Megan Dill, Charles Kernan, Michelle Bibeault, and Lori Crocker-Lincoln. They will select programs for next school year.

### **Eastford Readiness Program:**

The Readiness Program has 17 students currently enrolled. The preschool class list has been set for next school year with a roster of 17 students. Six of them are returning preschoolers. Two students are on the waiting list.

### **Eastford Readiness Council Update:**

Meetings are held virtually on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM. The June meeting will be the last meeting until September. The Council is updating policies and procedures to be ready for NAEYC re-accreditation in the spring of 2024. The Council recently discussed raising the cap on Readiness Fees. We will cap our Readiness fees at \$130 per week, and with next year's class, we will begin charging students who receive special education services for their time in the program that is outside of their service hours.

### **Update on Grants:**

**School Mental Health Workers Grant:** With the money we qualify for this year, we have posted a position looking for a part time school social worker. We will utilize some of the money to defray costs already expended on evaluations, student mental health needs and 0.2 FTE of the school counselor position.

**School Safety Grant Program (SSGP):**

Our grant application has been submitted. We are looking for reimbursement for projects that were previously paid for from the budget.

**Lowe's Hometowns Grant:**

Our application for this grant has been submitted. We are applying for funds to renovate the school gymnasium space. This will include the floor, bleachers, wall padding and basketball hoops. If awarded the grant, we would be eligible for up to \$300,000.00 for gym renovations that would need to be completed between June and November 2023. We are still waiting to hear about acceptance of this grant.

**School Readiness Grant:** This Grant has been completed. The Quality Enhancement (QE) component of the grant will be used for purchased services to support renewing our portfolio submission for NAEYC reaccreditation and for needed classroom supplies to remain compliant with NAEYC regulations.

**Data on Student Progress:**

Students in grades 3 through 8 have completed their Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Assessments. Official results are expected to be shared with districts over the summer and student reports will be sent to families once we receive them from the State. We will hold our trimester awards ceremony on June 15 at 8:45 AM to recognize students for their achievements over the third trimester.

**Curriculum Updates:**

- Science teachers have been meeting to evaluate updated science materials for students in grades K-8.
- Math teachers have nearly completed year one of using Illustrative Mathematics math materials. They have been meeting to plan a pacing guide to ensure that all students are receiving instruction in all areas of the math standards.
- In the area of English/Language Arts, we will need to adjust our curricular materials and assessments for grades K-3 to better align with the Science of Reading legislation.
- Later in June we should have specific updates and recommendations to bring to the Curriculum Committee for approval.

**School Climate Survey and Progress Toward Goals:**

Each year, annual climate surveys are given to students, staff and families. The results of the surveys inform areas of strength and areas for improvement. Staff goals based on this feedback will be developed for next school year. Survey data will be available at the meeting for review, and it will be posted on the school website. A summary of the combined results is below:

<b>Strengths/Improvement from last year</b>	<b>Areas for Growth</b>
Good communication with families	Middle school opportunities for increased socialization. Give kids more independence and freedom
Students are appropriately challenged and well prepared socially and academically	Bus monitors to improve behavior on the bus
Small size of school is a benefit	Standardize use of Google Classroom – frustrating for parents to navigate
Staff are well liked by parents and families feel informed about school.	Add a cafeteria or school lunch program
School is responsive to family and student needs	Support families in understanding Portrait of a Learner

Staff help students do their best	Increased training for safety and security measures
Students mostly feel safe and have least one trusted adult to go to if needed	Support teachers with classroom management
Overall pleased with school efforts and student performance	
Overall culture and climate is positive and supportive	
Overall comfort with current safety measures in place	

### **2023 Fall Sports Update:**

Signups were conducted for boys and girls soccer for the fall of 2023. We have received confirmation of interest for 12 boys and 6 girls. We have let the QVJC league know that we can field one co-ed team if we are able to hire a coach. I have also invited students from Union School to join us. I have not received any confirmation of interest from them to date.

### **Community and other events:**

- On June 7 Ms. Murana and Mrs. Boyd will host a family evening event for the students and families involved in the PALS program. Pizza will be provided. The program begins at 6:00 PM.
- Graduation will be on June 15 at 6:30 PM. There will be an in-school rehearsal on June 15 at 10:00 AM.
- Thank you to Mr. Tomanelli for leading students in the lively singing of patriotic songs at the annual Eastford Memorial Day celebration. Nearly 40 students participated this year.
- EES will be a busy place over the summer weeks. Extended School Year (ESY) services will be provided to 16 EES students for two weeks in July and one week in August. Mrs. Moran and Mrs. Kopplin will facilitate this.
- A Summer STEM Enrichment program will be offered in conjunction with Mystic Aquarium and Mystic Seaport for four weeks over the summer. Students will travel to Mystic Aquarium or Mystic Seaport each Friday during these weeks for hands on exploration of the classroom concepts. Mrs. Mead and support staff will facilitate this program for approximately 40 students.
- A summer sports camp organized by local church groups will use the school grounds and facilities during the week of July 24 - 28.