

Superintendent's Report: April 2026

Highlight of the Month: This past month I had lunch with the students in grades one through three who completed four of the Super Duper Math Troopers problems of the month between October and February. This program, which is aligned with the family partnership initiative, provides me with an opportunity to gain insight into the strategies students use to solve mathematical word problems.

Educational Leadership:

- This month a good portion of my time has been spent following up on facility issues.
- I have maintained ongoing communication with area schools that have been experiencing a series of “threat” calls. To date these threats are unfounded. As an added safety measure, we have instituted a morning staff sign in sheet. I have also conferred with Jason, our IT consultant, to discuss cybersecurity issues.
- To promote and recognize the professional growth of our paraeducators, we are offering, by an application process, the opportunity for two members of our team the opportunity to participate in Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) training. We are offering a stipend to those selected to participate in the training.
- I initiated a “The door is open... the Floor is Yours” program to encourage increased opportunities for staff to meet with me. Although most staff are quite comfortable just dropping by to share ideas or ask questions, this initiative provides staff with the opportunity to make an appointment to meet with me between 8:10-9:30AM and 3:45-4:30PM one day each week. These dates are posted in advance on the school calendar.
- I am still attempting to gain a better understanding of the use of zip codes to determine Title I eligibility. As you know, we do have addresses with different zip codes in our town, and I am trying to verify that those mailing addresses do not impact our low-income student count.
- Although we have been actively searching, to date we have not had the opportunity to hire a BCBA. To provide the staff and students with the support needed, we contracted Eastconn for additional BCBA support and have hired a substitute special education teacher for the remainder of the school year.

Facilities:

- Northeast Builders Roofing made repairs to areas of the roof and the cupola to address some of the recent leaks in the building. They are not charging us for this work. David Krasnecky (owner) provided us with an inspection report on the middle school roof and a proposal for replacing the roof. Both will be reviewed by the Facilities Committee at their meeting on April 9.
- I contacted Imperial Roofing regarding a leak in the gym that might be caused by damage to the gym roof system. The technician resealed a few places on the roof but believes the gym leak is coming through the exhaust vent. I will contact EMCOR to determine a next step. The technician reported that the concrete blocks securing the solar panels are deteriorating. I am now awaiting a call back from the solar company.
- At my request, Jimmy from LaFramboise provided a quote to do the entire water filtration upgrade without an engineer. The Facilities Committee can compare proposals at their meeting on April 9.

Finances:

- Steve, Terry, Nancy and I attended a meeting with the BOS on March 26 to answer questions regarding the BOE 2026-2027 operating budget. The BOS members asked questions concerning high school tuitions, bus transportation and textbooks/workbooks. Overall, it was a positive meeting, and we left with an intact BOE budget at a 3.99% increase.
- The dates for the next steps in the budget process are:
 - April 30 – Town budget hearing at 7:00 PM
 - May 14 – Referendum at 7:00PM following BOE meeting at 6:00 PM

Collaboration:

- To the extent possible, we maintain an active role in the Eastern Connecticut Early Start Collaborative (ECESC). Our Collaborative established both a Community Table and a Leadership Committee. There seems to be feedback from the State noting that this structure may not be an acceptable one. There is a Leadership Meeting on April 7 to discuss the structural guidelines. The needs assessment process is also being discussed. In the meantime, The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) will hold in-person meetings for Early Start CT providers in the month of May. To apply for funding for our preschool program, Attendance at one of the sessions is required, as stated in the Early Start CT contract. At this point in time, Carole is planning to attend the meeting being held at Eastconn.
- Deb Richards and I continue to confer weekly to share issues/concerns regarding the school and/or town. Given the recent increase in oil prices, we are both very happy we locked in with East River Energy for oil (school) and diesel (town) for next year.
- In response to a citizen's petition, the Town will be holding special hearings on April 2 and April 16. School staff arranged for the building to be open and staffed for both meetings even though the April 16 date is during school break.

Comments on selected agenda items:

New Business

- A. Policy 5144, Administration of Student Medications in the Schools
- B. Policy 5116, Student Discipline
- C. Policy 6173, Parental Access to Instructional Material
- D. Policy 3200, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Fiscal Compliance
- E. Policy 3400, Before and After School Program
- F. Policy 3434, Periodic Audit
- G. New Policy, Library Collection Development and Maintenance
Please see the Policy Committee minutes dated March 31, 2025, included with this packet, for the Policy Committee's recommendation regarding items A.-G. above.
- H. Set last day of school
Based on the number of canceled school days, the administration is proposing that June 19 be the last day of school for students and 10-month staff.
- I. Set date of Grade 8 graduation
The administration is proposing that the grade 8 graduation celebration take place on June 18. There does not appear to be any conflicts with activities scheduled by high schools that our students are attending.
- J. High School Discussion
This provides an opportunity for the BOE to discuss next steps in the designated high school process. Consistent with our current contract, I did notify Dr. Filippelli that we do not wish to have the current contract automatically renewed (copy of letter enclosed).

Financial Reports

As always, please submit any questions or concerns regarding the financial reports and/or recommended transfers prior to the meeting so the administration can prepare the needed information. We are requesting that the BOE make the transfers listed below. It is a long list but there are a few small transfers that will allow us to clean up accounts that require no additional spending, e.g. tuition reimbursement, school physician and financial software.