Superintendent's Report: January 2026

Highlight of the Month: Enjoying meeting with the first, second and third grade members of the "Super" Duper Math Troopers Club.

Educational Leadership:

- We moved forward with hiring Patricia George as our BCBA. After much review and deliberation, the administration believes this addition to our related services team will provide us with the needed skills and services to meet the behavioral needs of our students and support our efforts to keep our students in-house.

Facilities:

- Our elevator is now in operation. We have received quotes for additional modernization needs recommended by two elevator service providers. The Facilities Committee will need to set a meeting to review these quotes, as well as quotes for the updates needed for the water system, as they work to update our long term facility plan.

Finances:

- We carefully reviewed the status of our current budget in preparation for the development of the proposed 2026-27 budget, which you will receive at the BOE meeting. Currently, barring any outplacement needs or unanticipated major building repairs, we anticipate moving forward in a positive direction with our 2025-26 budget.
- Our administrative team continues to collate financial information regarding high school tuitions and additional associated costs that will be shared with the board when it next discusses the choice of a designated high school. In preparation, I am requesting a follow up meeting with Larry Filippelli focused on special education costs. I invite any BOE member to join me at this meeting.

Collaboration:

- Our administrative team continues to make serious efforts to collaborate wherever possible with area towns. The special education needs of students, and the rising costs of services remain a topic of concern for all.
- We continue to participate in the Community Table.
- Deb Richards and I continue to meet to discuss local needs.

Comments on selected agenda items

Unfinished Business

A. Policy 3150, Board Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers
There will be an updated version of the model policy, which I will forward to you if received by the time of our meeting. Otherwise, I recommend this item be tabled until the update is received.

New Business

A. Budget 2026-2027, Discussion
I will be presenting the 2026-2027 administrative budget recommendation to the BOE. In recognition of the current economic situation, as well as the past ongoing support of the Eastford Community, the administrative team took a very conservative approach to the development of the budget we will propose. With the increase in so many non-negotiable costs, the budget we will begin discussing on January 8 includes what we believe are "need to haves".

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. There are no transfers being requested at this time.