



HOPKINTON SCHOOL DISTRICT School Administrative Unit 66

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Superintendent's Report Hopkinton School District

Submitted: Friday, January 29, 2010 for a Tuesday, February 2, 2010 School Board Meeting

Without tempting fate, to be approaching February with only one snow day and one delayed opening is a very nice thing. The middle of the year presents a nice time to stop and reflect on progress. In the summer, meetings with members of the Leadership Team were held to talk about goals for the year. Curriculum, instruction, assessment, staff improvement, building climate, efficiencies, innovation, and new procedures were all a part of the summer meeting and the January follow up. The energy level and investment of the Leadership Team, in making tomorrow better than today, is as strong as ever.

The NH Department of Education produced two significant pieces of information this week: a report on the dropout rate and the latest New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) scores. There is significant attention to the dropout rate as SB-18 (compulsory attendance to age 18) went into effect on July 1, 2009. The 2008-2009 Hopkinton High School annual dropout rate is 0.9% (three students) and the four-year cumulative rate is 3.6%. A report on the Hopkinton School District performance on the NECAPs test is slated for the February 16, 2010 school board meeting.

The Hopkinton School District proposal for the Race to the Top Grant was included in the state application. More information regarding the award will be available in the coming months. An additional grant opportunity, Investing in Innovation, was presented at the recent commissioner's meeting. This grant requires joining with a local non-profit to submit a grant regarding innovation. One idea is a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club or Tween School'n Home Child Care to enhance the after school program with technology.

Mr. Sousa and I attended a state sponsored presentation by board exam programs. The state is continuing their pursuit of the board exam early exit program.

District work in the wellness arena is moving up on the priority list. The PTA's focus on Healthy Living combined with the state mandated Wellness Committee has made this month fertile ground to look at wellness issues.

The first early release day has arrived (February 3). The Mathematics Task Force, the Curriculum Council, and the Professional Development Committee all had a part in the planning of this afternoon. Due to the HESS agreement ratified in October, planning for instructional assistants is especially noteworthy as this is the first early release day that support staff is required to attend.

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The Hopkinton School District website continually develops. A screencast pointing out the \$450,000 increase in the federal project line, offset by revenue, is a recent addition.

Three open teaching positions are currently being posted within the district. The building administrators have been asked to provide a draft of their proposed hiring process. All positions will be filled by April 6, 2010.

The interconnection of district work is a hallmark for the Hopkinton 2.0 movement. Successful addition of days in the CBA, the defining of power standards, the development of common assessments, the creation of collaboration time (C-time), the efficient availability of student information, embedded professional development time, and the installation of tiered supports are all currently in the planning or the implementation phase.

From a book club discussion group at Maple Street, to working with a sixth grader on mathematics, to the Poetry Out Loud event at the high school, to writing student recommendations, it has been nice to continually focus on young people.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven M. Chamberlin
Superintendent of Schools