



**HOPKINTON SCHOOL DISTRICT  
HAROLD MARTIN SCHOOL**

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William V. Carozza  
Principal

**To:** Mr. Chamberin and the Hopkinton School Board

**From:** Bill Carozza

**Date:** September 30, 2010

**Re:** Principal's Report

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I am starting this report after experiencing our first C-Time. Thanks to hard work by Steve and my HMS team, the Movement Theme worked quite well. A very special thanks to Liz Durant who used her natural leadership skills to keep the hour going here at HMS. It was a fruitful time for the teachers as well, as they were engaged in PLC discussions. More on that below.

**PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES (PLC)**

I gave details of the PLC changes at HMS in my last Principal's Report. Thus far, teachers have been using their weekly PLC time, the C-Time, and future early release time to utilize assessments and begin collaborating. Here's a brief "slice of life" into a third grade team meeting I attended this week:

*The PLC Steering Group Chair for third grade presents a chart of all students in the third grade broken into Math RIT bands, which shows each student's Fall MAP scores broken into numerical strands of 10 points each. Discussion ensues about the amount of students in various bands and if the teachers' early impression of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders math prowess matches the scores. One discussion centers on a student who has real difficulty in literacy but scored near the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in math. I quickly print out a document from the NWEA Reports site that shows the entire third grade with more data detail. We discuss how the percentiles correspond to grade level. The conversation moves toward how we can qualify certain students for enrichment opportunities.*

A main goal of PLCs is to group educators together who share a common grade or subject and encourage discussion around common assessments and how to use this to drive instruction. The bottom line is that outputs have to be measured even more frequently than inputs. How well students are truly learning has to be the ultimate measure, not simply how well we are teaching. Thus far, I am encouraged by the level of discussion.

## PLAYGROUND

Thanks to so many people, especially our donor and the Playground Committee, we are getting close to commencing installation on our new playground. Of course, we will discuss this more at the Board meeting. Although the process has been swift, we have had solid collaboration between various constituencies. Thank you for your support.

## SCHOOL PICTURES

This year the district went with a new school picture company, Geskus Photography from the Seacoast. Early returns were positive in terms of their professionalism but the true test will be the quality of the pictures. They certainly have a good reputation and the best part, from my perspective, is that they offer less expensive options for parents.

## CONSTITUTION DAY

As an old Political Science major, I certainly respect and appreciate the need for civics education. While slightly unusual, the federal and state mandate to teach the Constitution on Constitution Day gives HMS an opportunity to link our school wide rules, the 3B's, with the enormous power of our federal Constitution. In addition to an all school assembly, we have each student sign a "3B's contract" agreeing to uphold the rules, also signed by myself and parents.

## BUDGET 2011-12

We are now in budget season throughout the district. Of course, the process is shrouded in the reality that the state of our economy restricts some of our options. However, I encourage our teachers to continue dreaming and propose those budget items that would significantly impact academic achievement even if we can't deliver on these items in this budget cycle. The teachers need to have their budgets to me within a couple of days of the Board meeting and then I have about a week to take my turn with the HMS budget.

I could expound on any one of these items in detail, and I'd be glad to do so at the Board meeting. See you Tuesday.