



Superintendent's Report February 11, 2014

- 1. Collective Bargaining:** Collective Bargaining has begun with one of our units, Professional Educators (Unit A). Support Staff (Unit C) will follow. Don Hawkes, Stow Board of Selectmen is the liaison from the towns.
- 2. FY 13 Audit:** We have our auditors from Powers and Sullivan attending this meeting. You may recall they got snowed out on December 17th. The audit is online and also in paper copy for your review.
- 3. NEASC Standards:** Tonight we begin a schedule of review of the NEASC standards that as School Committee members you will be well versed in their meaning, application and purpose as they relate to our high school. Andrew Zercie will be presenting on CORE Values, Standard I.
- 4. Policy:** Due to the number of meetings for members on Tuesday, Policy did not take place. There were no recommended suggestions from our last school committee meeting so they are on for review and a requested vote at your meeting.
- 5. Finance Committee Meetings:** Bolton School Committee Representatives met with their Finance Advisory Board on February 4th. Other school committee members are encouraged to attend their respective Finance Committee meetings and George King or I will attend with you.
- 6. Early Childhood Education:** I am asking that the school committee consider agreeing now, before the budget is passed, to include the All Day Kindergarten Initiative (3.0 Teachers, 3.0 Kindergarten Aides or a total of \$255,000) and the Pre School Classroom (1.0 Teacher and 1.0 Aide or \$85,000) that would continue regardless of the final outcome. I believe this is necessary so that parents can make decisions that will be favorable to our district in that they choose to attend.
- 7. FY 15 Budget Discussion:** Tonight's meeting will be focused on a discussion by the school committee on where they see their next steps with their budget process. Questions should be asked about expenditures and revenues. We are also able to discuss the impact on the communities in terms of affordability. As I have reported before this is a very reasonable budget that considers the affordability, but also addresses the continued quality of our practice and the performance of our students. I believe that our communities have the capacity to afford this budget and their local initiatives as well.
- 8. State Budget Process:** Many of the state organizations are collaborating on an effort to get the House and Senate to agree on a joint resolution for Chapter 70, Regional Transportation, Circuit Breaker special education), and Homeless Education (reimbursement). Ideally they would also do so for Chapter 90 (municipal funding). If we are successful, such a vote may come as early as mid March.
- 9. Department of Children and Families (DCF):** Worcester County Superintendent's met with the Director of Areas for Worcester County, Kelly Prendergast. She talked about the partnership with schools, the process to get a referral for a 51-A and a new expanded endeavor with the Department of Youth Services (DYS). The latter program is a voluntary program for courts and families to help before the child has to be committed to the courts. We work closely with DCF because of our connection to students who reside at the group homes in Lancaster and this partnership is important to coordinate where these children attend school.