

Superintendent's Report

March 25, 2015

- 1. Team Recognition:** Our championship hockey and wrestling teams have been chosen to participate in the opening game ceremonies at the April 28th Red Sox game. These teams will have their coaches and captains out on the field to be recognized. The teams were randomly selected out of the pool of champion teams across the Commonwealth. Congratulations! The NASHOBA community is encouraged to attend.
- 2. Math Night:** The Florence Sawyer School had a great turnout of parents and students from K -8 for their second annual math night. Karen Fortin, math specialist, arranged, planned and organized the event with her colleagues and hosted over 150 students and 60 parents to learn math games, activities and strategies for practice at home. Every student had a take home packet age specific for continued learning. It was a great night
- 3. Sprinkler Issue at NRHS:** During a routine inspection of the high school the safety officer noticed that one of our sprinkler head caps fell off. Upon further inspection, the sprinkler head appeared to not meet code for dropping below the ceiling in the event of a fire. This would cause the water to be diffused above the ceiling rather than down toward the fire. We have a plan to investigate the extent to which how many sprinkler heads may be impacted by this installation flaw. We believe it was installed this way during the 2000-2002 renovation and was missed by the project manager, building inspector and contractor's construction manager at the time. We have checked with our attorney and there is no recourse against our contractor or the Town of Bolton for allowing occupancy then and after all subsequent inspections. We have an outside contractor examining the extent of the issue. Once I have an estimate for a repair project I will bring this forward. We plan to do the work this summer.
- 4. Cultural and Global Learning:** I am moving forward with our plan to look at the social studies curriculum as part of our review cycle for curriculum. One way to prepare for this is to get a core group of educators involved in looking at multiple models of curriculum and bringing what they learn back to us. I have developed a partnership with Primary Source out of Watertown, MA, a group that works with schools to broaden curricula with a focus on culture, geography, and language. I hope to have those who take this course help lead the conversation that can once again bring back the work of the foreign language committee to look at how language instruction can be part of our curriculum.
- 5. Foundation Commission:** We have our next meeting with the Commission to on Friday the 27th in Boston.

6. Exploring Vocation Education Options: Minuteman Regional High School has an excellent reputation for world class vocational education. Students within our three towns, however, don't always entertain Minuteman because of the distance. Some of these students opt to attend another vocational school, and if accepted cause a financial burden to the towns. It is also a concern to us that a number of students don't choose to attend Minuteman, attend our high school, and struggle with courses that don't align with their learning style or interests. Since this is a town decision, Tri Town would be a good venue to discuss whether the idea of withdrawing from Minuteman and looking to another vocational high school is of interest. The timing is critical because of a new regional agreement coming up for votes in the Minuteman district. If we are able to get a school closer to our communities, we might be able to encourage students who are well suited for exploring a vocational education and thus reduce the rate of growth at our high school and have students better matched for learning. If there is not strong objection to the conversation starting, I can add to our agenda for a future date and then work with the Towns to decide what agenda it should be added to for Tri Town.