



Superintendent's Corner

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Happy Friday! The Amesbury Public Schools have completed another successful week. On Wednesday, we recognized the brave men and women that have served in the armed forces by celebrating Veteran's Day. Each school acknowledged this important holiday in their own way, ranging from school-wide programs to discussions within classes. On behalf of the Amesbury Public Schools, I want to extend my appreciation to all members of the armed services, both current and former.

This week, I held more meetings in small groups with parents, staff, and members of the community as I continue to learn about the community. I truly value and appreciate these conversations, as each person brings a unique perspective and provides useful feedback regarding our schools.

Leadership team discussion

Our leadership team continues to tackle the myriad of reports and audits that were completed during the last school year. This week, we focused on the report from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. We had very extensive discussions about the following recommendations:

- The district should consider re-activating its professional development committee and charging it with developing and evaluating an annual professional development plan for the district.
- The training of central office in the use of accounting technology, and the immediate creation of state-related expense information in an electronic format that can be easily modified and shared, should be a district priority.
- The district should give priority to curriculum development and renewal by restoring infrastructure and providing more time for curriculum work.
- The district should take steps to ensure that rigorous, high quality instruction occurs in all classrooms every day.

While I don't necessarily agree with all of the findings or the ways in which the information was collected/analyzed, these reports do give us an opportunity to reflect on our practices, consider the recommendations and establish areas for improvement. It is important to note that many

of the recommendations contained in all of the reports were either something that was already complete or in process for completion by the time the reports were made available to our district. I would commend all the central office and school leadership staff for their efforts in addressing the recommendations contained within the various reports.

Poet Laureate

On Tuesday evening, I attended a meeting regarding the selection of the poet laureate. At this time, our little committee which was charged by the Cultural Council to select a poet laureate have successfully completed the task. I am excited about our selection and feel this individual will bring a lot to this prestigious position as the first poet laureate. I don't know if the individual's name has been made public yet, so I wouldn't want to spoil the surprise in my weekly note. There will be an induction ceremony held in early January, on a date to be determined.

Closing Thoughts

Enjoy the weekend! My wife is off to New York City with my youngest son for a mother-son weekend, so I will be home with my other two boys for the weekend – it looks like it is a takeout weekend for the Reese boys!