



Superintendent's Corner

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Superintendent

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Policy Subcommittee – School Committee

On Monday, our policy subcommittee of the school committee met to review the following topics:

- Update on the work of the school mascot/identifier committee at Amesbury High School
- Student Activities Account Policy
- Opioid Law/Policy Updates
- Physical Restraint of Students

At our school committee meeting on Monday night (10/3), a report will be provided summarizing the discussions on these topics. An updated physical restraint policy will also be presented for a first reading by the school committee. This policy reflects updated regulations that were put into place earlier this year, but the policy was not completely updated to reflect those new regulations.

District-Wide Curriculum Work

Our teachers continue to be engaged in curriculum work to update/revise our curriculum and incorporate social emotional learning into the curriculum. This week, our arts teachers, social studies teachers, and math teachers worked together to identify content based transfer goals. The discussions have been very lively and include high level thinking about the types of skills that we expect our students to demonstrate when they leave Amesbury Public Schools.



Annual Policymakers' Breakfast – Sponsored by the District Attorney

Thursday morning, I attended the Annual Policymakers' Breakfast sponsored by the District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett. This annual event provides an opportunities for educators and law officials to get together to

discuss topics pertinent to both settings. The focus of this year's breakfast was on Recognizing and Responding to Childhood Trauma. The morning was broken up into four key segments:

- Childhood Trauma and How it Effects Youth in School and the Community – led by Dr. Lisa Boesky, author, clinical psychologist and expert in adolescent mental health and suicide
- Children's exposure to Violence, addressing OJJDP's National Initiative: The Changing Minds Campaign
- Adolescent Drug Use and Childhood Trauma – led by Dr. Sharon Levy, Medical Director of Adolescent Substance Abuse Program at Boston Children's Hospital
- Best Practices for Screening Drug Addicted Youth – led by Kellie Dressler Blue, Associate Administrator of the Juvenile Justice System Improvement, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Some of the key takeaways from this event include:

- The prevalence of these issues across all communities in Massachusetts and throughout the United States
- A reaffirmation of the work we are doing in our schools to embed social emotional learning into our school curriculum

Strategic Planning

Friday morning, I worked with the administrative leadership team to review the draft of our strategic plan and, more specifically, to begin to identify specific measurable action steps to address each of the strategic initiatives. We are using a logic model process to analyze the initiatives and to ensure that the action steps are the biggest 'levers' to promote change. At Monday's school committee meeting, I will present the draft of our strategic objectives and initiatives for review and input by the school committee. Following that meeting, I will share out with the community to gather input on the objectives. The goal will be to make sure that we are highlighting the most appropriate objectives and initiatives to improve our schools over the next three-five years.

NSSRT Meeting

Friday, I attended the North Shore Superintendents Round Table meeting. Superintendents in this area get together monthly to discuss topics relevant to all of our practice. This month, Jennifer Judkins, the Digital Learning Coordinator for the Lynnfield Public Schools, presented to the group about Makerspaces. Makerspaces are creative do it yourself spaces where educators can get together to create materials and resources for their classrooms. Makerspaces often have a variety of hands-on resources for the teachers to utilize and to share experiences with their colleagues. For more information about Makerspaces, go to:

<http://spaces.makerspace.com/>

Be well and have a great weekend! If you are looking for something to do on Saturday, check out the Fireball Run festivities in the center of town. There are a variety of family activities, including a parade at 4:00. To learn more about the festivities, go to <http://amesburychamber.com/fireballrun/>

Gary