
April brought with it thoughts of Spring, a lot of needed rain, a tornado warning, and the return of students to the High School. May promises a “return to normal,” with warm weather allowing for more time outdoors and more students returning to school in-person.

On a more somber note, in April Region One lost a long-time employee, friend, and advocate for children. We join all of our colleagues in mourning the loss of Leila Wood, counselor in North Canaan, whose impact on students and faculty was unmeasurable.

Staffing

We are working our way through applications and reference checks for all of the positions as they are posted. As noted previously, we are continuing Lisa’s model of a two-step interview process: a traditional interview and a teaching interview. With the relaxation of some of the Covid restrictions, we are able to have the prospective finalists for positions actually come to the school to teach in person. We are providing those candidates with a specific standard and a common lesson plan template to allow us to see their planning ability and how well they monitor student work through formative assessment during the class period. The teaching interview is followed by a second round of interview questions to elicit the candidates’ ability to reflect on their own teaching.

Summer Learning

We are working with a team of staff from across the Region to create an amazing and engaging Summer Learning Program that will meet the needs of students and families. This year’s programming will feature a blend of SEL and fun camp activities with targeted tutoring opportunities.

The program will run from 9 am -12 pm Monday through Friday starting June 28 and ending on July 23. Salisbury Central School has graciously agreed to serve as host, and transportation is being arranged to and from each district.

Jill has also been working with a small cadre of teachers and town librarians to develop plans for this year’s two books, one region endeavor, “Clue Books, One Region”. As with previous

years, students will be given a book and families will be provided a variety of activities to engage with the text in the community over the summer and back at school again in the fall.

Teacher Evaluation

We will be getting some additional information about teacher evaluation from the State Department of Education. To that end, administrators worked with Amy Tepper to reflect on their impact on student learning. We will continue to work with Amy as we finalize the revised *Continuum of Professional Practice* (CPP) and design professional learning for administrators around determining the “look-for’s” of the practice described by the CPP. The full use of the CPP for evaluation of teachers will begin in the 2022-2023 school year, after both administrators and teachers have had a year to understand the changes from our previous revision.

The CPP is intended, now, to be more than an evaluation document. Rather, we will be using it, combined with our work with Habits of Mind and the Region One Portrait of a Graduate, to define exemplary teaching in Region One. We will spend all of the 2021-2022 school year working the new vocabulary into administrators’ and teachers’ vernacular, so that everyone is using a common language to discuss teaching and learning.

Professional Learning

The Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC) met on Tuesday, 27 April to discuss professional learning needs at each school so that we can work with the Leadership Teams at each school to begin to personalize the professional learning to the needs of each faculty. Our goal is for PDEC to begin to intentionally use data to make decisions about professional learning and to differentiate between teacher learning needs and teacher training needs. Moreover, we will be discussing *how* that professional learning can be implemented so that it “sticks” and becomes part of the Region’s day-to-day work with students.

Xello

All of our schools have agreed to use [Xello](#) in grades 6-12 as a platform on which to build their students’ Student Success Plans (SSP), introduce students to college and career readiness at an appropriate developmental level, and to facilitate the delivery of our high school seniors’ documents to colleges. (Xello will replace Naviance at the High School.)

Mary O’Neill’s Report

[Mary O’Neill’s report](#) details her work this month.

Celina Huber's Report

[Celina Huber](#) highlights her work with our EL students.

Respectfully submitted.

Scott A. Fellows

Scott A. Fellows, Ed.D.

Jill Pace

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