



Our schools opened smoothly to teachers and staff during the week of 23 August 2021 and to students on Monday, 30 August 2021. Since both Jill and Scott are teaching for part of each day, we will try to provide a brief snapshot of the projects on which we are working and our priorities for September and October.

### **Grants**

As we noted in August, the ARP ESSER Grant applications were forwarded to the State before the deadline of 23 August. We have received a positive response for three of our schools, North Canaan Elementary, Cornwall Consolidated, and Region One. We anticipate that the other four applications, about which we have heard nothing from the State, will be approved prior to your October meeting.

We will also begin processing the other annual grants. We have been told that five of our six schools were awarded \$10,000 in Title IV, Part A grants, but we have not yet received the application materials.

### **Hiring**

With a Herculean last minute push, Jill was able to fill the last two permanent positions during the week before school began (but another became open this week). All told, we hired 20 new faculty members for the Region One Schools. You have heard about each of the hires in your school and you may have seen the profiles of these individuals in the Lakeville Journal. We had a wonderful launch to the school year with the whole group for New Teacher Orientation in late August and the energy, enthusiasm, and experience of these educators was nothing short of inspiring.

Still outstanding are several grant funded positions that will be part of the Pupil Services staff. Carl Gross and Martha Schwaikert are working to fill those positions.

We continue to need substitute teachers! We were happy to add 3 new substitutes to the list in August.

### **Curriculum**

Summer curriculum work progressed well. The school counselors have been working on their K-12 curriculum based on the new [Connecticut Comprehensive School Counseling Framework](#). We see this as a long term commitment to build a coherent and aligned curriculum in the area of school counseling.

We received a draft Curriculum Audit for Social Studies from Carly Quiros and Sue Palma at EdAdvance. Currently they have looked at the 5-8 curriculum and are completing their work on the K-4 curriculum. They are using the [Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social](#)

[Studies Framework](#) as their guide. The next step will be for them to meet with the teachers of social studies to review their work and to determine priority standards for each grade level and course. Finally, they will write the curriculum (as they did for ELA in the past years).

At the High School level we have curriculum being written throughout the year and to be “cleaned up” in June. Currently those courses include English, AgriScience, and Math.

### **Professional Learning**

With the Delta variant of Covid still a concern, our work with Dr. John Ramos on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) needed to be postponed to January. We have worked to redesign our 3 September 2021 Professional Learning Day to focus on Habits of Mind, the Portrait of a Graduate, Teacher Evaluation and the State’s Flexibilities (which were approved by our Professional Development and Evaluation Committee [PDEC] in June), and time for grade-level or department-level teams to meet across the Region to discuss curriculum and instruction. This redesign continues to allow us to progress with our strategic plan for the Region.

Respectfully submitted.

*Scott A. Fellows*

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*Jill Pace*

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