

Hampton Elementary School
Superintendent's Report
To
Hampton Board of Education

9/27/21
Written 9/20/21

This month has been a very challenging one which will actually make our HES Team change in interesting ways. The resignations of Dr. Judy Benson-Clarke, Director of Special Education Services and our school secretary, Ms. Lisa Soule will bring in an opportunity to hire two replacements. We will be actively looking to hire the replacements who will be reflective of a new level of diversity to our HES Team as well as the continuation of the high level of expertise brought to us by both Dr. Benson-Clarke and Ms. Soule.

Dr. Benson-Clarke has represented Hampton on the State level with her work as an educational program evaluator for the Connecticut State Department of Education. She has also served as a member of the Board of Education for Regional District 8. She has accepted a full time position in another district with full benefits that we could not offer her as a one-day per week employee. We wish her well. Dr. Benson-Clarke's last day is Monday, 9/20/21.

Ms. Soule has accepted a full time position in the Stafford School system as the district's Special Education Department's Administrative Assistant. Although Lisa worked here for a short period of time, her experience as an administrative assistant was obvious from the day of her arrival. She was able to implement our operational procedures almost immediately and she was proficient in all of the Special Education software such as IEPDirect. We wish Lisa well in her new position. Her last day will be 9/30/21.

We have also been informed that Ms. Linda Sanchini has been awarded a Grant: Food Waste Warrior (FWW) Project. As presented in the notification of the grant's details, the following is the objective of the grant:

The objectives of the Food Waste Warrior (FWW) project are to actively engage students on the topic of food waste, foster an understanding of the connections between food and its environmental impacts, and standardize the measurement and reduction of cafeteria food waste in schools

This \$1,000 grant is funded by the World Wildlife Federation (WWF) and we congratulate Ms. Sanchini on her award.

Ms. Roberson has issued a memo that explained the current status of the long awaited realignment of our math program for our students. The new alignment will allow students to receive math instruction in a much more individualized manner. Rather than a single large math class made-up of all students from the same grade, the faculty has reviewed each student's current level of math competency. With the new organization of the teaching of math, teachers are providing instruction at the level of knowledge that each student has for math.

This project has been long planned and its implementation was partly delayed because of the Covid protocols that were in place last year.

We have been working with the town auditor, our vendors, and the Hampton Board of Finance to allow us to pay for two very expensive items (the playscape and our technology up-grades which are not covered by any grant.) However, the total cost of almost \$40,000 was part of our 2020-2021 budget that had to be given back to the town because we did not receive the delivery of the items ordered by June 30, 2021. We still have not received these items as I write this report.

The supply chain issues that have negatively impacted all of the deliveries for the items we ordered, continue to this day - we still have not yet - even as I write this report - received our orders. If the auditor and/or the BoF do not allow us to fund the playscape and technology equipment from the money we returned to the town, then the \$40,000 will need to be "found" from another source. This could have a profound impact on our current budget that was reduced by \$110,000 as recommended by the BoF and approved at referendum.

Finally, I am including in my superintendent's report a listing of our current open positions and asking any one interested to go to our website and apply or call the school (860) 455-9409 - ext. 0 and speak with Lisa.

Open positions:

Director of Special Education - Certification required - one day per week - our current population is 17 students, 1 certified staff, 6 paraprofessionals

Administrative Assistant - responsible for all operational activities in the school's front office as well as supporting HES's principal - At least a high school degree, excellent interpersonal skills - organizational skills - with a full time and benefit package

Para-professional - Responsible to certified staff member who is the direct supervisor - experience with special needs students - behavior management experience and understanding of the management of students with autism a plus - at least a high school diploma with preference of an associates degree in education/ABA training

We think that any parent with students attending HES are encouraged to apply. Successful candidates will need to be finger printed. HES offers salaries based on experience and levels of training as well as health insurance and other fringe benefits.

For the position of Director of Special Education, a retired former director who holds a valid CT. certification 092 and has been certified as a special education teacher is encouraged to apply. The contract is negotiable.

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