

Leadership Report 4/19/23

General Reminders/Information:

Work plan: Here is the [link](#) to the board's work plan. We want to make sure everyone is aware this is a living document and updated often. Items are subject to change, may move around depending on how full an agenda is or be removed.

If you are planning to attend the meeting via Zoom the expectation is board members will keep their video on for the entire meeting.

If you have not already signed up for Board Recap please sign up [here](#).

Retreat: Something to put on your calendar we will be having our school board retreat as our last meeting **June 28th from 5pm to 9pm** most likely at Mad River Barn. Dinner will be served, delicious food, just saying. There won't be an option to Zoom in.

If you are going to be absent, late or have to leave early from a meeting please notify board leadership. We need to have a quorum for board meetings, our quorum is based upon weighted voting not 1:1.

360 Superintendent Survey: Anyone who received the survey needs to complete it by **May 10th** in order for Kelley and I to write up a comprehensive evaluation.

Agenda Request: Any Board member can submit an agenda request using [this form](#). Agenda requests will be reviewed in January, May, and October. The list of requests is brought to the Board table to consider for a future agenda. We will be reviewing all agenda requests at our **May 10th** board meeting.

Upcoming Opportunities for Board Members:

Vermont School Board Association (VSBA):

The VSBA is offering a virtual webinar for newly elected board members. Click [here](#) to register if you are interested. Even if you aren't able to attend due to a conflict you can still register for the webinar and the links will be sent to you to watch at a later time.

Below is a description of the webinar:

The journey begins with a series of two webinar sessions on May 8 and May 15 from 5:00pm until 7:00pm created exclusively for newly elected and newly appointed school board members. Join VSBA staff and state experts as we grapple with defining the work

of school boards and their members, including governance issues, policy, the role of the board, expectations, financial basics, and board operations.

Budget Workshop: in collaboration with Lisa Estler, we will be offering budget workshops during our meetings. These workshops will slowly pick away at the various line items that make up our budget. In the hopes when it comes to budget season board members will have a better understanding of what goes into making up the district's budget. If there are areas board members are interested in taking a deeper dive into please email board leadership, we will compile a list and pass that along to Lisa.

Executive Session: We will be having another executive session this evening. Please be on the lookout for a Zoom link from Dr Mike for this meeting.

Highlights:

Brookside: Once again the students at Brookside had the opportunity to learn more Stepping from Marlena Tucker-Fishman and she brought Jasir Easton to teach Hip Hop Dancing! Their residency was from Wednesday April 5th - Monday April 10th. Students showcased what they learned at the Spring Concert (4th Grade only) on April 13th and at Spring Celebration which will be held on May 18th (all other grade levels).



Moretown:

A newly registered Little Free Library on the Rec playground with children's books, care of MRNA and 5th/6th graders of the past.



Fayston: At Fayston second graders celebrated all things international! They researched, drafted, revised and edited informational texts of countries around the world that inspired them! The celebration culminated in a Taste of the World lunch!



Hildene Lincoln Essay Winners: This year's topic was on censorship of books.

Congratulations to the following students for these prestigious awards:

1st place went to Harmony Devoe (a student at Harwood Middle School). Harmony advocated for keeping Finding Junie Kim by Ellen Oh, on the library shelf because

Vermont needs more books that raise awareness about racism and that help Asian American students like herself feel represented.

2nd place was Emma Aither (a student at Harwood Middle School). Emma proposed that rather than banning Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes, the town or library should host community conversations with guest speakers to increase awareness about racism and hate.

3rd place was James Michelle Shenk (a student at Crossett Brook Middle School). James wrote about the critical need to keep books like Melissa by Alex Gino accessible to all students to provide opportunity for transgender representation and discussion.

Youth Rally for Planet for Change

Harwood Juniors Piper Floyd, Janelle Hoskins, Rowan Clough, and Natalia Roscioli lead the Crossett Brook and Harwood Middle Students with Ms Henry and Ms Hill at the State House on Friday, April 14th. They along with several other schools spoke and advocated on climate change and planet awareness. Here students are meeting with legislators on the state lawn.



Board Reports:

Student Reps: We will be hearing from our student reps this evening. Just a reminder if board members would like to know about specific topics not covered, please reach out to leadership and we will be happy to pass on your requests.

Superintendent: Dr Mike has a report for the board and time has been allotted if board members have any questions.

Director of Finance: Lisa has also provided a report and if any board members have questions there will be opportunity to ask.

Discussion:

Professional Development Committee: About a year ago the board started a professional development committee. This committee met once or twice, and came up with relevant topics for board members to learn more about. "Homework" was assigned with the assumption this would be completed prior to the second meeting of the month. Designated agenda time (20-30 minutes) would be given for the full board to discuss that topic. Is this something the board wants to start back up? If so, do the same people want to continue on this committee? The time commitment would probably be 1-2 meetings at most.

Bond Planning: After looking over the extensive needs of our schools it is apparent that we will need to move forward on a more sustainable way of supporting these upgrades. In addition to looking at what the priority needs are we will be looking at how to engage our communities, both town and schools. Our hope is that rich discussions will happen and both students and the community will be able to come together to support their district and longevity of the buildings.

Action Items:

Appoint board member to the Warren MOU committee: Lisa will be giving more detail on this committee and the time commitment.

Approved Restraint and Seclusion Policy for warning: We will be approving the policy for warning tonight. If the motion passes the Restraint and Seclusion policy will be on the May 24th agenda for adoption with the idea that the policy will be in effect for the start of the school year in August.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, May 10th 6:00pm Harwood Library

Wednesday, May 24th 6:00pm Harwood Library

Wednesday, June 14th 6:00pm Harwood Library

Wednesday, June 28th 5pm to 9:00pm Retreat Mad River Barn

Please reach out if anyone has any questions or concerns.
Kristen and Kelley

