



An informational update from the Superintendent to the RSD 17 Board.

June 2024

Superintendent's Report, Jeffrey S. Wihbey, Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent's office will be reaching out shortly to Board members for individual summer catch-up meetings.

Department Updates

Finance

- Published the FY25 BOE Adopted Budget Book, and completed the loading/turnover process in Infinite Visions. The new fiscal year will be open for requisition entry on 6/19.
- Hosted quarterly grants meetings with Student Services and Curriculum Coordinators. Grants are all on track with documented spending plans.
- Facilitated the insurance renewal process in preparation for June marketing results from the new broker.
- The full 2% Capital Reserve PO (\$900,913.58) was entered to get it "on the books" for YE forecasting purposes.
- Developed full object level YE forecast utilizing 5/31 actuals.
- Rolled out a process to update all service vendor records to ensure that current Certificates of Insurance and Indemnification agreements are on file.

Operations

- Presented the *Elementary Interim Strategy* to the BOE at the 5/23 Master Plan conveyance meeting. No BOE motions were made, but proceeded with developing an RFP framework for a potential *HKHS Campus Redevelopment Project*.
- Solid Waste and Recycling bid opening occurred on 5/30. Evaluated respondents and developed approval materials for the June BOE meeting.
- The state-required "Tools for Schools" checklists were completed and posted on the District's and each school's websites.
- Performed detailed inventory/analysis of all fuel storage tanks for the insurance renewal process.
- Refreshed Capital Project Submittal Sheets for FY26-FY30 and rolled out to Principals on 5/29.
- Created a model to analyze the average annual value, pro forma NPV, and ROI for the solar array at HKHS, both with and without grant impacts. Systems generate an average of \$100k/yr in "savings," equating to a net-of-grants payback of 14.5, slightly positive NPV, and an IRR of 5.2%.



An informational update from the Superintendent to the RSD 17 Board.

- Held bi-weekly project update meetings to review project status and financials for summer facilities work.

Student Services

- Developing transitional activities for new students who are attending the 18-22 program for the 24-25 school year.
- Coordinated community visits with neighboring districts, so students in the 18-22 program would have an opportunity to socialize with their same-aged peers.

Food Services

- Performed an analysis to work out meal price increase scenarios to at least cover the \$55,000 projected loss for FY24. Increasing breakfast to \$0.25 and lunch to \$0.75 will cover the amount of the FY24 operating loss in FY25, but if program costs rise in FY25 (which they likely will, and definitely will in terms of labor) without any further state/federal subsidy in FY25, the rates will have to increase again to at least break even without any CapEx.
- Submitted the required State attestation for the CT Local Food for Schools program, which carries a max reimbursement of \$4,446.25 in FY25, as well as being a beneficial program to bring more local produce into meal prep.
- The State announced that through a one-time settlement with the Federal government, districts can “write off” bad debt from unpaid student meals. Submitted an application to participate in this initiative.

Curriculum Office

- Curriculum coordinators are gathering and analyzing data for the administrative retreat.
- Curriculum coordinators are collaborating with principals on interviews and lesson observations for hiring new educators.
- Curriculum coordinators have updated the summer learning website and are communicating summer learning expectations to schools, families, and students.
- STEM Curriculum Coordinator and the high school technology education department are hosting a local stakeholder meeting in June for the Perkins Grants.



An informational update from the Superintendent to the RSD 17 Board.

Schools

HKHS

- **HKTV Wins “Best Performance” Award**

On May 29th, HKTV students attended the Quiet Corner Film Festival at Killingly High School. Out of 18 films, HKTV was nominated for three short films: "Closing Time," "How To Hide a Body," and "Modern Education." Damen Ridgeway received the "Best Performance" award for the short film, "Modern Education." It was an amazing experience for our students as they walked the red carpet and were interviewed about their debut.



(Image: Damen Ridgeway)



(Image: Left to Right: David Sargent, Mason Mazzotta, Damen Ridgeway and Christopher Palmieri)

- **The Connecticut High School Coaches Association**, named Mark Brookes the 2024 Baseball Coach of the Year. He will be honored at the annual All-State banquet on Tuesday, June 18th at 6:30 PM at the Aqua Turf Club. Brookes has coached the Cougars for 48 years and has won 764 games—the second-highest win total in the history of high school baseball in Connecticut. This past spring (2023), the Cougars won the Class S state championship.
- **HKHS hosted our annual Scholarship Night** on June 3rd and is grateful to the greater HK community for its support of our students. Local scholarship support this year totaled \$92,350 and overall totals including ROTC awards were \$581,416!

HKMS

- The 8th graders recently embarked on their first major trip since before 2020, spending three memorable days in Philadelphia. This excursion was a tremendous success, providing students with enriching experiences and lasting memories. We are excited about the opportunity to offer more such trips in the future, further enhancing our students' educational journey and personal growth.



An informational update from the Superintendent to the RSD 17 Board.

- The AAFA show was a packed house. Students from both the intermediate and middle schools showcased their best talents for the community. The Cupcake Wars competition was a fan favorite, delighting everyone with creativity and delicious treats.
- As the school year draws to a close, students and teachers are busy wrapping up final projects and assessments. Alongside their hard work, they are also taking time to enjoy various fun activities such as our annual kickball tournament. These moments provide a perfect balance of productivity and enjoyment, ensuring a memorable end to the school year for everyone.

HKIS

- The AAFA show was a dynamic exhibition showcasing the remarkable work students engaged in during their AAFA's (Academic Applied Fine Arts). The event featured a diverse array of projects, highlighting the creativity and engineering skills of the students. Highlighted was an impressive display of artistic endeavors, innovative design builds, and interactive games.
- The unified sports basketball game was an exciting event that showcased the spirit of inclusion and community. This year, Brown Intermediate School from Madison traveled to participate. It was great to host Brown after HKIS had traveled there last year. The atmosphere was electric as 4th and 5th grade students cheered passionately for all players. Adding to the festive spirit, the Kindness Club created posters to support and encourage the unified sports team.
- The 5th-grade Watershed Authority field trip was an educational adventure that provided students with hands-on experience in environmental science. Students traveled to three locations along the Connecticut River and engaged in the process of collecting water samples. They observed and analyzed these samples, noting differences and similarities across the various sites.

BES

- Burr celebrated Mr. Granucci's final art show in the district. We thanked him for his 43 years of service and enjoyed the thousands of pieces of artwork themed around outer space.
- Our 3rd grade chorus and recorder concert was a great success! Students proudly showcased all their learning as they performed a variety of songs for a packed audience.
- Our 3rd graders participated in their Ringing Out Ceremony on June 10th. All 75 students proudly rang the bell signaling the end of their time here at Burr. They are off to new adventures at HKIS.

KES

- Our community was treated to an outstanding Art show that showcased the culmination of outstanding effort in art this year. The artwork on display highlighted the incredible art skills of our students and teachers.



An informational update from the Superintendent to the RSD 17 Board.

- The third-grade choral and recorder concert was outstanding as well. The recorder is often a student's first introduction to playing an instrument and they did so well that the future of the HK Band is looking bright.
- Students and teachers are wrapping up the end-of-year projects and assessments and enjoying some fun activities as the days wind down.

Board Requests Follow-Up:

1. To provide additional information based on the inquiries related to Magnet School Sports Program Participation, please see the attached [High School Administration response](#).

Social Media Posts:





An informational update from the Superintendent to the RSD 17 Board.



Like us on Facebook: [@HKSchools](#)

Follow us on Twitter: [@RSD17Schools](#)