Memorandum

To: BBRSD School Committee
From: Sally-Ann Stukuls
Director of Curriculum and Grants, Grades 6-12
Date: for 10/08/24
Re: October 2024 Report

So far we have submitted applications for several grants. Upon approval by DESE, the ESSA grants total allocation will be in the amount of $57,335.00 with a breakdown of $34,143.00 for Title I, $13,192.00 for Title II, and $10,000.00 for Title IV. Food Services Director Rob Kilham and I were just recently awarded $10,000.00 through the "EOS Foundation: After the Bell, Breakfast in the Classroom" grant which provides funds for our food services department to use for their breakfast programming. Director of Facilities, Dan Ayala and I also recently received free lead testing and technical assistance through the WaterSmart program. We have also submitted applications to the "STARS MA Cultural Council Residencies Grant" to help fund the costs of the Cape Cod Trip that students in the Nature of Being course are taking and we are working on a MA FRESH grant application to help fund costs associated with upgrading and maintaining school gardens through the Food services department, Horticulture, and Backyard Sustainability classes as Tahanto.

The district had a full professional development day on Tuesday September 24th where elementary schools concentrated on a professional development series entitled, "The Year of Math" as well as data analysis in general, while the middle/high school learned about Diffit, a tool that can be used to differentiate class work for students at their particular level, a book study using Jon Saphier's book, High Expectations Teaching, and the creation of schoolwide goals that focus on learning and trying new strategies such as scaffolding to help our "high needs" group of students close their achievement gaps with the "all students" category. There was district wide professional development surrounding creating goals using the new IEP form that now exists in our state led by Academic Discoveries and Safety Care training, which provides skills and competencies to effectively prevent, minimize, and manage behavioral challenges with dignity and safety. Our next full Professional Day will take place this coming Wednesday, October 9th.

The Wellness Committee conducted its first meeting of the school year on September 26th. We are in the process of finalizing a presentation that we will be taking to faculties at all three schools in the district along with groups such at the PTO, Boosters, and student advisory sessions to discuss the new Wellness Policy and address any concerns or questions people may have in regards to the regulations.

We are currently encouraging community members and students to join us. Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 23rd, at 3:15 pm in the Tahanto Regional Middle High School Conference room. If you are interested in joining us, please reach out to me at sstukuls@bbrsd.org.

We are in the process of developing a STEAM Committee with hopes to increase the number of high quality STEAM opportunities for students, help students develop critical thinking, problem solving and innovation skills and to promote multidisciplinary collaboration between science, technology, math and the arts departments. We will be brainstorming the organization of potential events which may include expos, fairs, or presentations in the future. Our first meeting took place on Wednesday, October the 2nd and we would like to welcome additional faculty, staff, students, and family and community members to join us so if anyone has interest, please feel free to contact me at sstukuls@bbrsd.org. Our next meeting will take place on November 13th at 3:30 in the Tahanto Multipurpose room.