



June 2025

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

### **Department Updates**

#### **Finance**

- The Quarterly Certification of Public Expenditure forms were submitted and certified. These reports claim the actual cost of allowable expenditures for activities that support the implementation of the Medicaid state plan.

#### **Operations**

- All Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Capital Improvement Projects have been successfully completed and came in under the approved budget of \$500,000. Sincere thanks and appreciation to the Facilities, Operations, and Technology teams for their dedication and persistent efforts in achieving this outcome.

#### **Student Services**

- The Student Services Department just submitted the IDEA grant application for the next school year.
- The final Unified Sports event took place at the middle school. The students competed in a cornhole tournament to end the school year.

#### **Food Services**

- The Food Services staff provided catering for end-of-year events at all schools, including Field Day and Street Fest. Both students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the celebrations, and the food was widely praised for its quality and taste. Thank you to HK Food Services for another fantastic year!

#### **Talent, Accountability, & Human Resources**

- The spring wellness challenge was completed. Over 140 employees participated, and positive feedback was received!
- End-of-year evaluations are being completed on the online platform.
- Planning for New Teacher Orientation, August 20 and 21, is beginning.



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

- Open Enrollment was completed this month.

### Curriculum Office

- The district successfully completed state testing within the window that closed on May 30, 2025, with participation exceeding 95% as usual. Preliminary results appear promising.
- The District Math Committee met this spring to begin a review of current resources, teaching, and learning. The committee includes representatives from all buildings. Surveys about math were completed by students and teachers in K-12. Their work will continue through the summer and fall, with recommendations expected in time for the 2026–2027 budget discussions.
- All of our beginning teachers passed their TEAM reflection papers successfully with guidance from their Mentors.

### Schools

#### HKHS

- RSD17 has been recognized by the NAMM Foundation with the **Best Community for Music Education Award** for its ongoing commitment to music education. Over 1,000 districts and individual school sites (public, private, charter, parochial) were recognized for having the highest commitment to producing exceptional music programs.
- HKHS Boys Track won the Class S State Championship last week! Not only was this win fantastic for the boys, but also puts the perfect cap on a 50 year coaching history for Coach Dick Dupuis, who will retire from his post this year.

#### HKMS

- Eighth graders had a successful overnight trip to Washington, D.C. at the end of May. Students were immersed in learning about our nation's history as they toured the United States Capitol, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Smithsonian Museums of American and Natural History, as well as several monuments and memorials. Through an essay contest, select students earned the privilege of participating in a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. An evening ghost tour and trip to the National Zoo rounded out the fun-packed trip!
- The HKMS music department shone in many important events this spring, including band and chorus concerts, our Memorial Day assembly, the Memorial Day parade, and AAFA Night!



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

- HKMS students showcased their artistic, musical, athletic, and culinary talents to the community at our annual **AAFA night**. Attendees were treated to live musical performances, delectable cupcakes, and opportunities to engage their brains and bodies!
- Sixth graders took a day-long field trip to Quassy amusement park, where they enjoyed thrilling rides, a full waterpark, and a family picnic-style barbeque!

### HKIS

- The 5th-grade students took a field trip as guests of an educator from the Regional Water Authority, exploring three different sites along the Connecticut River watershed. At each location, students became scientists, testing the water for nitrates, oxygen levels, temperature, and pH. This hands-on experience supported their science learning by allowing them to apply classroom knowledge to real-world investigations, deepening their understanding of water quality and the importance of protecting local ecosystems.
- HKIS families joined us at the HKIMS AAFA night, celebrating the arts and creativity of our students. The AAFA show was also an opportunity for students from Mr. Houlton's classes to showcase their talent. This year, students participated in LEAP events, showing student-driven, unique games of cerebral and physical skills. Students created learning stations for the community.

members so they could experience their work. This created a carnival atmosphere where visitors had the opportunity to show off their physical and mental skills. Pictures from the night and a student-created brochure are included below.

[https://share.icloud.com/photos/0443uhYznHMK2V-A1bTxm\\_cyg](https://share.icloud.com/photos/0443uhYznHMK2V-A1bTxm_cyg)

- Band Concert – On May 29th, the HKIS fourth and fifth grade bands performed in the HKIMS auditorium. The fourth-grade band showcased each instrument group through a series of short songs, while the fifth-grade band played three full ensemble pieces. Both groups gave excellent performances, and the event was enjoyed by students, families, and staff alike.
- Select Choir Field Trip – On May 1st, the HKIS Select Choir took a special field trip to the Commonwealth Senior Living Center in Haddam. During the school day visit, the choir performed a variety of songs for the residents, who warmly welcomed the students and expressed their hope that the group will return again next year.



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### BES

- Burr held its annual Ringing Out ceremony and celebrated the 81 third graders who are finishing up their time at Burr and ready to head off to HKIS in the Fall.
- We had a very successful end-of-the-year art show, recorder and chorus concert, and field day. Our specials teachers did an outstanding job planning these events, and students did a fantastic job showing off their skills for families!

### KES

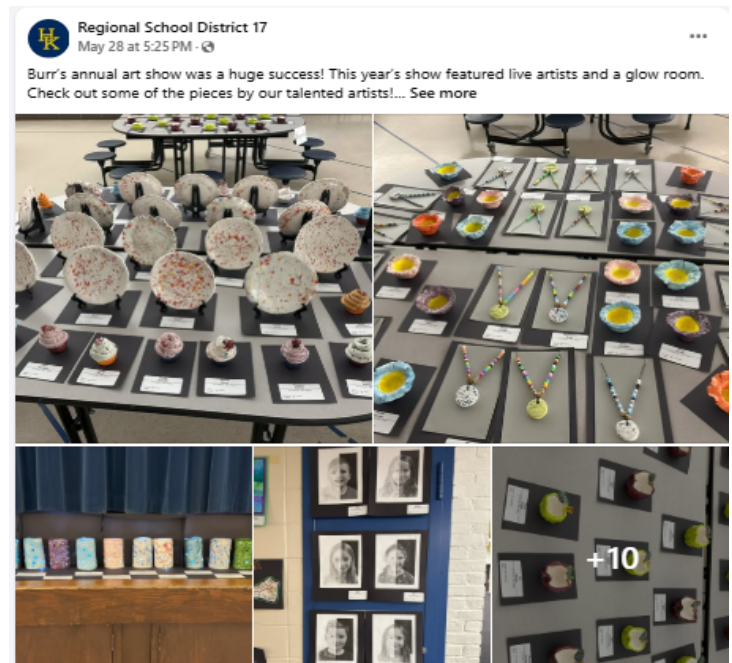
- Third-grade students treated the school community and their extended families to a wonderful choral and recorder concert. Learning to play the recorder is the third-grade students' introduction to playing a musical instrument and reading music. They did such an incredible job and their growth was remarkable. A special thank you to Mrs. Rubalsky for her incredible teaching.
- Third graders were also treated to a special field trip to HKIS where they were welcomed by Mr. Larson and his staff. Moving to a new school can be difficult for children, but the HKIS visit was a success and the students are excited and eager to join the intermediate school next year.

### Social Media Posts:





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



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