Memorandum

To: Albert Ganem, Interim Superintendent of Schools
From: Lisa Sequeira, Principal, Tahanto Regional Middle High School
Date: September 9, 2025
Re: Report to School Committee

Tahanto Regional Middle/High School

A Successful Start to the School Year

The 2025–2026 school year is off to a strong start at Tahanto. Our 6th Grade Orientation, hosted by the High School Student Council on August 26th, was a tremendous success. This annual event provides our incoming students with an invaluable opportunity to familiarize themselves with the school, practice opening their lockers, and interact with older peers who serve as positive role models. We have observed that this transition activity has contributed to a smooth start to the year, with students appearing settled, positive, and comfortable seeking guidance when needed.

Student Leadership & Engagement

Student government is already in full swing. Each high school grade level recently held their class meetings, during which students learned about the election process for class officers. These early opportunities for leadership help students see how participation now can shape their senior-year experiences and leave a lasting legacy for future classes.

Professional Development & Instructional Focus

Faculty and staff began the year with high-quality professional development, including a presentation by Katie Novak, author of *UDL Now!* Her session inspired thoughtful conversations around our schoolwide goals. At our first faculty meeting, we framed our vision for implementing formative assessment strategies across all classrooms this year. These practices will allow us to target instruction more effectively and meet students' diverse learning needs.

Scheduling & Course Offerings

This year, we are managing the impact of the loss of 2.0 FTE positions. Although we were able to fully schedule every student, we are offering online courses to 18 students, primarily in world language and science/technology, due to the loss of a world language and science teacher.

Despite these constraints, Tahanto continues to offer a robust program of studies. However, many high school classes are considered singletons (only offered once per day), which limits schedule flexibility. Teachers often carry multiple preps, and we have had to be strategic about course availability. On a positive note, we have expanded accelerated mathematics opportunities at the middle school level and increased our interdisciplinary electives, such as *Art Through Literature*, to provide rich and engaging options for students.

Looking Ahead

As we move through the school year, we will continue to evaluate our course offerings, class sizes, and graduation requirements to ensure they align with the needs of our students and prepare them for a successful future.

Additionally, we are preparing drafts of our Competency Determination Policy and Graduation Requirements using the state-issued template. These will be submitted to DESE via GEMS by December 30, 2025. Drafts will be presented at the next School Committee meeting for review and approval.

Closing

Tahanto remains committed to providing a challenging, supportive, and student-centered environment within a conservative economic framework. We are proud of the work being done and will continue to seek ways to best serve the diverse needs of our students and prepare them for life beyond Tahanto.