Governor Wentworth Regional School District
Superintendent District Update

September 2023

Communication

Toward our effort to increase communication, I am eager to announce the introduction of the Superintendent District Update, a monthly channel through which we will provide our School Board with timely district updates. Additionally, we will continue engagement with our dedicated staff and families by disseminating newsletters that feature school spotlights, event calendars, and crucial information. These newsletters will be readily accessible on the district website via the dedicated Superintendent Page.

Summer Activities & Professional Development

I am pleased to report on the success of our summer activities. Our summer programming enriched the educational experiences of our students across all towns, providing them with valuable opportunities for growth and learning. Furthermore, our dedicated staff members actively engaged in professional development activities, with special education leaders attending the New Hampshire Association for Special Education Administrator (NHASEA) conference, focusing on essential topics such as legal updates, legislative changes in special education, and best practices. Additionally, our SAU leaders participated in the New Hampshire School Administrator Association's annual leadership event, delving into critical areas like diversity, equity, and inclusion, legislative impacts on schools, and effective leadership in New Hampshire. Many elementary teachers and math coaches attended a four-day training on using formative assessment in the math classroom. Participants were excited to bring back what they learned and use it in their classes. Finally, Amy Nail presented on the Opening Day. Amy has served in education for over thirty years as a teacher, building administrator, and district administrator. Her expertise is in the area of feedback, and she shared strategies with all staff on the purpose and characteristics of effective feedback, as well as strategies for providing productive feedback. These experiences have further equipped us to continue delivering exceptional education and fostering a more inclusive and equitable environment in our district.

Safety & Security PD Training/ Homeland Security Assessments

The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management conducted comprehensive assessments of all GWRSD schools during the months of July and August this year. This initiative was part of the Homeland Security program, which offers voluntary physical security assessments for K-12 schools in New Hampshire. These assessments focus on evaluating the physical infrastructure and grounds of our educational institutions, with particular attention to three critical security capabilities: surveillance, access control, and emergency alerting. The

insights gained from these assessments will undoubtedly bolster the safety and security measures in place across our schools, reinforcing our commitment to providing a secure learning environment for our students and staff. Once I receive the assessment reports, I will present the findings to the Board at a future meeting. Plans are underway to involve Homeland Security at our next GWRSD & MSD Safety & Security Task force meetings.

Daughters of the Revolution/ Wreaths Across America

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) organization has worked diligently to coordinate the visit of the Wreaths Across America (WAA) Mobile Education Exhibit to Carpenter School on November 28th and Crescent Lake School on November 30th. This initiative is a testament to their commitment to fostering a deeper connection between our local communities and the military, while also promoting education and the values of service and sacrifice. The 48-foot exhibit is an impressive platform equipped with a 24-person screening room, where visitors will have the opportunity to gain insight into the various facets of the WAA mission through engaging video presentations. An education wall further enriches the experience by providing a wealth of information about the different aspects of WAA and its future missions. The overarching purpose of this Mobile Education Exhibit is not only to educate the next generation about service and sacrifice but also to share inspiring stories of patriotism and a profound love for our country with communities throughout the United States. Through this endeavor, DAR and WAA aim to strengthen the bonds between our communities and our military while fostering a deep appreciation for the values that unite us as a nation.

Respectfully submitted by Caroline Arakelian