

Governor Wentworth Regional School District
Superintendent District Update
Submitted by Caroline Arakelian, PhD
March 2024



Holocaust Survivor Guest Speaker at KRHS

Kati Preston, a Holocaust survivor, will be visiting Kingswood Regional High School on Thursday, March 21st. She will be speaking to several classes in the Humanities Departments in conjunction with concluding units on The Holocaust. Several English classes, in fact, will have just finished the novel *Night*, by Elie Wiesel. Kati's story is one of survival, loss, and learning to live a life of ethnic tolerance and embracing humanity. The presentation will last approximately 70-80 minutes, with time for Q&A with the students if they wish. This will be Ms. Preston's third or fourth visit to KRHS, but the first with a media cohort. WMUR's NH Chronicle will be attending as well in order to conduct a feature on Ms. Preston for an upcoming episode. Ms. Preston has also conducted similar presentations at various high schools across the state, to include Spaulding High School and Pembroke Academy. The contacts from Hearst Media/WMUR are Mary Paige Provost (Senior Producer) and Chris Shepherd (Videographer).

SAFE Grant Award: Effingham Elementary School

Effingham Elementary School has been selected for funding through the Security Action for Education (SAFE) Grant program, utilizing the Public School Infrastructure Funds established in RSA 198:15-y. The school has been awarded a total of \$99,500.00 across multiple projects, covering 100% of eligible project costs. The projects encompass crucial security enhancements, including surveillance systems, access control measures, and emergency alerting systems.

Effingham Elementary School's SAFE Grant awards include:

- Surveillance EES 2023: \$15,000.00
- EES Access Control-1 2023: \$30,000.00
- EES Access Control-2 2023: \$15,000.00
- EES Emergency Alerting-1 2023: \$20,000.00
- EES Emergency Alerting-2 2023: \$2,000.00
- EES Surveillance 2023: \$15,000.00
- EES Emergency Alerting-2 2023: \$2,500.00
- Total Amount Awarded: \$99,500.00

Each project contributes to the overall safety and security of the school environment. The awarded funds, detailed in the attached Grant Agreements, are distributed among these critical security enhancements. Funds must be obligated no later than June 30, 2024, with all associated expenditures and activities to be completed by December 31, 2024.

Portrait of a Learner

I am pleased to present the insightful findings derived from the recent Portrait of a Learner survey, a comprehensive initiative engaging a total of 1,198 votes for attributes across various

segments of our school community. This inclusive survey encompassed students from Elementary, Middle, and High School levels, parents, staff, community members, and the esteemed School Board. The primary goal was to discern the attributes collectively valued and prioritized in our learners.

The survey results unveiled a consistent consensus on certain attributes, with "Critical Thinking / Problem Solving," "Collaboration and Communication," and "Strong Academic Skills" emerging as the top-ranked attributes. These findings were gleaned from a diverse pool of respondents, including the following number of votes per attribute: 1022 votes from Elementary, 1071 from Middle School, 1294 from High School, 525 parent votes, 1443 staff member votes, 20 community members, and 15 School Board representative votes toward attributes.

As we delve into the averages, a noteworthy pattern emerges. Across the board, there is a shared vision for our learners, emphasizing critical thinking, collaboration, and academic proficiency. Our community exhibits strength in "Computer and Technology Competent" and "Organization, Focus, Self-Direction," while identifying areas for growth, particularly in "Socially Responsible, Positive Community Member" and "Self-Awareness and Regulation."

Looking ahead, the Portrait of a Learner team is scheduled to convene on March 13, 2024, to consolidate the data and finalize the attributes guiding our learners' development. The team will present the comprehensive findings to the School Board at the meeting in April providing an opportunity for further discussion and alignment on our shared educational goals.