

# Regional School District #10

## Serving the Towns of Harwinton and Burlington

HOWARD J. THIERY  
Superintendent of Schools



VONETTA ROMEO-RIVERS  
Director of Teaching and Learning

August 26, 2024

Colleagues in Region 10, this is my fourth opportunity to welcome you to a new school year and it is a privilege to do so. Summers are fleeting - I hope these last two months have nourished you in ways that fed your minds, bodies and spirits and you are smiling from the inside out as you walk into your buildings. My family celebrated three birthdays this summer and later this week we'll have both a freshman and a senior in high school. There is *nothing more humbling* than two teens trying to tamp down my personal and professional excitement for the start of school. 😊

My excitement stems from the work we've done **together** over the past several years that's bearing fruit. During last week's New Faculty Orientation (our largest cohort in years, clocking in at 23 incredible new colleagues!) Deb and I couldn't contain our enthusiasm about the quality and depth of work found in every school, grade, classroom, and department (and we had the data/evidence to back it up). Our Points of Pride slide could have gone on forever, but these are just two of a long list of celebrations at each school. **Thank you** for your role in the impact you have had and will have on the teaching and learning culture here in Region 10.

## POINTS OF PRIDE!



### Lake Garda School

- ★ 94% of Kinders and 94% of First Graders Scored At or Above on the End-of-Year DIBELS Assessment with LGS Being Named a 2023 School of Distinction
- ★ The LGS Equity Team Successfully Implemented SCHOOL FAMILIES During 23 - 24 to Encourage Student Voice, Respect & Belonging

### Har-Bur Middle School

- ★ 81% of HB Students Said on our Spring 2024 Survey That They Have At Least One Trusted Adult at School, an Increase of 5% From the Previous Year
- ★ HB's Next Gen Accountability Index Rose to 75.9 in 2023 - a 7.6% Increase From the Previous Year

### Harwinton Consolidated School

- ★ HCS Book Club Read of *Shifting The Balance* - Directly Aligned With Best Practices in Early Literacy Instruction and Resulting in HCS Being Named a 2023 School of Distinction
- ★ 71% of Families Responded to our Annual Parent Survey and Our Overall Climate Score was 88%

### Lewis Mills High School

- ★ LSM Made the AP Honor Roll in 2023 - More Kids Are Taking AP Courses, Taking the Exam, and LSM has an 87% Passing Rate with 3s or Higher
- ★ 95% of the Class of 2024 had a Post-Secondary Experience as Part of their Coursework. That Includes AP, ECE, Community College Partnership Course and Work Experience

This school year we will continue to anchor our **existing** decision-making systems and structures in our Shared Definition of High-Quality Learning (**SDHQL**) and our Vision of the Graduate (**VOG**). Both frameworks are student-centered and beg us to ask ourselves individually and collectively how everything we engage in benefits our students from PK right through to graduation. Our Educator and Leader Growth Plans are new this year after building it

# Regional School District #10

Serving the Towns of Harwinton and Burlington

HOWARD J. THIERY  
Superintendent of Schools



VONETTA ROMEO-RIVERS  
Director of Teaching and Learning

throughout the 22 – 23 and 23 – 24 SYs, but our other systems and structures are familiar parts of our daily work/PLC work/Content-Specific work.

## CREATIVITY RELEVANCE CRITICAL THINKING COLLABORATION STUDENT AGENCY ACTIVE LEARNING

These terms, as we've defined them together, will be at the core of our teaching and learning conversations throughout the year, both within and beyond the classroom. As we engage in our work, we must ask ourselves where and how we fit in the realization of both the VOG and our SDHQL. I am as equally committed to supporting you as we work to get there on behalf of all our students. There is no one way to get there and I encourage you to tap into your own creativity, discover new ways to collaborate, think critically about what student agency means in schools and craft active/relevant learning tasks for students.

Multiple Pathways to Ensuring the *Vision of the Graduate* and  
our *Shared Definition of High-Quality Learning* are Realized:

Knowing and Caring for our Students Developmentally;  
Believing in their Current & Future Selves

Dynamic and Accessible Instruction: BTC, UDL, DEI Commitments,  
Bridges 3

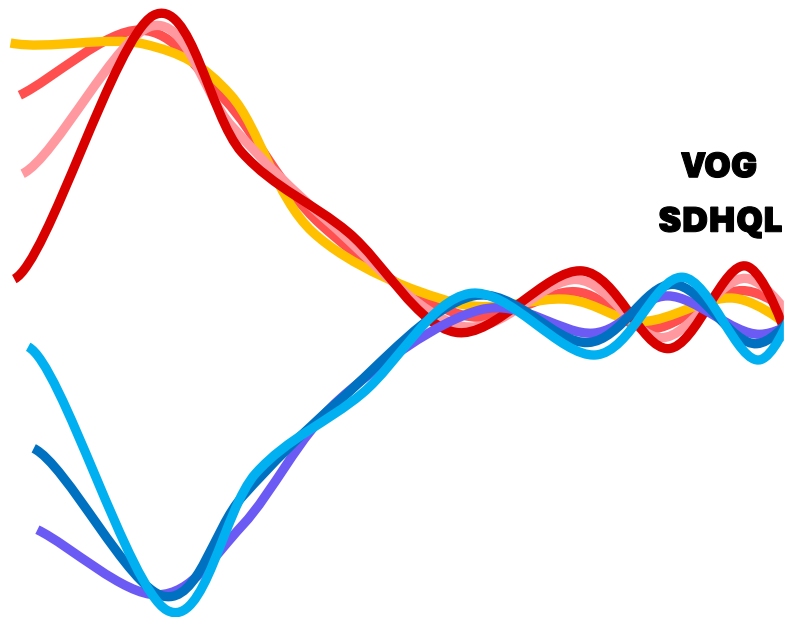
Early Literacy Steeped in the Five Pillars of Literacy

Intentional, Focused Professional Learning: MyPL, Collaborative and  
Organizational Growth Opportunities

Data Analysis Systems at the District, School and PLC Levels

Iterative Curriculum Review and Refinement

New Educator and Leader Growth Plan Components



As always, I look forward to being your partner in this work.

Warmest Regards,  
~Vonetta