

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

Bethany Orange Woodbridge
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Superintendent's Report – June 2016

Food in Classrooms – The Amity Regional High School handbook states (Item #16, page 44) that “No food is allowed outside of the cafeteria and/or culinary arts facilities.” Discussion regarding this guideline included reference to Board policy. While Board policy does not specifically address food in every classroom (though it does address food in some specific classrooms), at least two Board policies are directly linked to the development and enforcement of this practice. Board policy 3516.3 establishes a Safety and Health Committee which played a critical part in developing and communicating food guidelines based on recommendations from the Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD), OSHA, and Tools for Schools. A memo dated 1/11/07 outlines the changes resulting from our broadly-supported participation in Tools for Schools, and states “No food or drink outside of designated areas (excluding water).” Additionally, Board policy 5141.22 outlines specific work area restrictions and Board policy 5141.25 outlines the Board’s expectations for specific building-based guidelines for exposure to food allergens.

Per Pupil Expenditure – Amity Regional School District uses the standard methodology for calculating per pupil expenditure (i.e., net current expenditures divided by average daily membership) based on the definitions provided in Connecticut General Statutes §10-261. According to the most recent State data (2014-2015 Net Current Expenditures (NCE) per Pupil (NCEP) - <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/dgm/report1/basiccon.pdf>), the DISTRICT NO. 5 NCEP is \$16,349.33. By comparison, the NCEPs of our Member Towns are:

Bethany	\$16,689.51
Orange	\$16,382.22
Woodbridge	\$16,213.22

It is important to note that a simple comparison of total expenditures divided by average daily membership is not accurate in comparisons between regional school districts and municipal school districts because the cost of debt service and town-provided services are not included in the municipal school district’s total expenditures.

BOWA Coordination/Collaboration – On June 1, 2016, the District STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Committee will host the first STEAM day at Amity Regional High School. The event will include poster presentations from current student research projects, STEAM professionals (including UI), and participation of fifth graders from across all three Member Towns.

BOWA Shared Services – We are actively investigating opportunities to share professional services, primarily in the areas of Special Education (e.g., contracted services like Occupational

Therapy, Behavioral Therapy, and others) and Technology (e.g., PowerSchool, network management).

Personalized Learning – Our administration has been participating in professional learning regarding implementation of mastery-based learning, standards-based grade reporting, and creating opportunities to foster greater student engagement in the overall learning experience. Dr. McPadden and Mrs. Fuller-Cutler will be working this week with Allison Zmuda; Dr. Dumais and Mrs. Mahon recently completed a series of sessions with The Great Schools Partnership and school leaders from across the State; Dr. Dumais and Mrs. Mahon have started to build a team to work together on the “High School Reimagined” project in the fall.

Professional Development – Next Monday will be our final Professional Development Day of the academic year. Staff will continue to work on using data from the STAR Universal Assessments to target instructional strategies for students, and work with their peers across the district and the three Member Towns to further align curriculum and develop opportunities to personalize student learning.

Board of Education – We will establish an opportunity for the Board to reflect on our current district goals and to provide input on the development of district goals for next year. We will be working with CABE to establish a timeline and scope of work for a review of our present policies and the adoption of current required policies that will ensure that we have a complete and comprehensive set of policies and regulations. Reminder – June 8, 2016 is the Board Annual Dinner.

Leadership Capacity – Jack Levine presented at the annual CASBO Conference at West Point.