

**Hartland Board of Education**  
**Fall 2018 Newsletter**

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS....Dr. Anthony Distasio**

**Hartland High School Voucher/Designated School Policy**

The Hartland Board of Education policy on Voucher/Designated schools is as follows: a voucher allows Hartland students to attend any public high school in the state. The Board of Education will pay the tuition to that school system. A voucher form must be officially submitted each year, and the student must be accepted by the receiving system. Hartland's designated high school is Granby Memorial High School. **The transportation to any voucher school is the responsibility of the parents.**



Transportation is provided to Granby Memorial High School. A designated school form must, however be submitted for any student wishing to attend Granby High. Letters with the appropriate forms were mailed to parents of all eighth grade students and current high school students during the beginning of October. **The appropriate form must be submitted by November 30, 2018** for the upcoming 2019/2020 school year. If any parent has a question about the Voucher/Designated School Policy, please feel free to call at 860-653-7207.

**Friendly Reminders:**

- When a school bus is stopped with the red stop sign and flashers displayed, please remember to stop. There is a very expensive fine for passing a stopped school bus with the flashers displayed. This includes when buses are in the parking lot at dismissal. If the lights are flashing cars cannot pull in or out of the parking lot.
- When visiting Hartland School, all visitors must report to the office to sign in and receive a visitor's pass from the school secretary. Keeping our school safe and secure is always a priority.
- The Hartland Board of Education meets on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. with the exception of April when we meet on the third Monday due to vacation week. The Board welcomes public attendance and input at our meetings.



## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER.... Laura H. Hollingsworth

Congratulations to the entire Hartland School family on a very smooth opening of school! Special thanks to our summer office and custodial crew for all their work to oversee multiple repairs and upgrades to the building as well as getting everything shiny, clean and organized! Several teachers moved their classrooms to make room for preschool to move to a larger room. This has allowed us to welcome our largest enrollment of three and four year olds ever. The PTO Open House, Book Fair and Curriculum Night were all well attended. Our awesome P.T.O. plays a huge role in making school feel fun and welcoming, giving students and families that all important sense of belonging. We are off to a great start!



Many thanks to the 46 families (down from 61) who found the time to respond to our Parent Feedback Survey last spring. The Climate and Safety Committee chooses questions each year that we want to track over time. Items that reflect how happy children are to come to school and how friendly they feel the environment is, are slightly down. This will be addressed in an approach we are learning about called R.U.L.E.R.. Questions that addressed being the target of hurtful communications on social media as well as parents ability to support students' use of technology in school are both trending positively. The Climate and Safety Committee has made it a priority goal that **the measurement for parents feeling comfortable sharing their thoughts at this school will increase to at least 70%**. Please know that we take your feedback very much to heart whether it arrives via a survey or informally during the year.

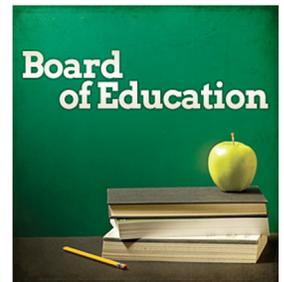
The faculty has again decided to focus on a schoolwide Student Learning Objective as part of our annual goal setting process. This year we continue grow our practice to support the high leverage expectation that ***Students will demonstrate independence in reading, viewing, and listening to complex texts and/or tasks.*** In math, that will focus in on Mathematical Practices 4 and 6, modeling and attending to precision. In language arts and content areas, annotated reading, note taking and the consistent use of important, basic grade level standards for spelling, grammar and conventions are areas of focus.

Analysis of the 2018 Smarter Balanced Assessment showed that Hartland School performed favorably compared to schools like us and to the state averages in ELA. School wide the percentages of students meeting or exceeding standards decreased from 76% to 74% in language arts. In math, we held the same from 53% to 53%, outperforming the state average but not showing the growth we wanted. The Smarter Balanced platform now has more short, interim assessment tools which help us see exactly where students struggle.

This summer Dr. Distasio, Ms. Zimmerman and I attended a three day workshop at the Yale School for Emotional Intelligence. We learned about an approach called R.U.L.E.R. that includes tools for helping to recognize and regulate feelings. This year Hartland School is learning about it at the adult level and using a few of the tools with students. We hope to roll it out to students and families next year. We are hopeful that this approach will help us address some of the behaviors that are making students feel less safe and happy in school. This is completely consistent with our Growth Mindset work. We are committed to meeting the needs of the whole child. Hartland students are our P.R.I.D.E. and Joy!

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON.... Pamela Weber**

It's been six months since our last newsletter and I'm still trying to figure out where those months possibly could have gone. We have now turned the page from summer freedom to school year schedules. As our kids prepared to leave for school, whether it be to first grade, sixth grade or tenth grade, I'm sure there was some whining about having to get up so early. And, yes, I'm sure there was some begging to stretch out summertime "just one more day." But I'm also certain that there were just as many anxious, eager and excited students who couldn't wait to start a new school year. Mother Nature graced us with soaring temperatures the first few weeks of school, which resulted in some emergency early release days; but it didn't stop our students and faculty from jumping right in. And now, those warm days are behind us and I'm reminded by the changing leaves and the cooler nights that we are quickly approaching that season better known as "winter." So now, if we can be so lucky this winter season, hopefully our students and teachers can enjoy a few extra weeks next summer and get out of school with just a few snow days added to the calendar.



As we've all come to learn, all good things must come to an end. After five years of serving the Town of Hartland, Dr. Tony Distasio will be retiring in January. Tony's dedication to education and his love of children has been so apparent during his time at Hartland. The students still speak of the time he joined them in a pick-up football game during recess or when he stopped them in the hallway to exchange and share pictures of recent fishing trips. His support of the school, the faculty and administration, the town and the students will certainly be missed. On behalf of the Board of Education, we wish Tony, his wife Pat and their family the very best. Thank you for your devotion to Hartland School and the Town of Hartland. Enjoy this new journey of your life, as you deserve the best retirement ever.

Over the next month, the Hartland Board of Education will be conducting a search for our new Superintendent. The search committee includes members of the Board of Education Personnel Subcommittee, a member from the Town of Hartland Selectman's Office, a parent representative and an HEA Representative. The recent survey that was sent out to the town and school community has come back and the results have been gathered. The responses were shared with the search committee and the feedback and suggestions will be included in the interview process.

As we soon approach the holiday season, remember that it is the perfect time to reflect on what makes us all happy and to express sincere thanks for all we have to celebrate! Our friends, our families, our livelihoods, our health...and so much more – we have so much to be grateful for! Think about all of the people that make our school so special...and then let them know how grateful we all are for their contributions to making Hartland School the exceptional learning community it is, whether it be a simple smile, a warm handshake or a small handwritten note. Taking the time to let someone know you care, is the biggest gift of all.

Have a wonderful, safe and happy holiday season!

Sincerely,

Pam Weber  
BOE Chairperson

## **Cultural Arts Liaison, Ronnie Alicata**

Our school-wide theme, *Hartland's Pride and Joy*, is certainly enhanced by the cultural experiences that continue to be offered to all our students. Mime Robert Rivest opened our season urging perseverance and a can-do attitude along with mindful behaviour. Our annual week-long residencies with Hartford Stage will expose our students to the uncertainties of life, with added workshops for younger students connecting literature to science and math. Connecticut's (newly named) troubadour, Nekita Waller will visit Hartland School along with the percussionist Bob Bloom and the National Circus Project. Many of our selections hope to magnify Samuel Johnson's words, "Great works are performed, not by strength, but by perseverance."

