



Mission: *To work in partnership with districts to provide programs and services of the highest quality and to improve results for students.*

Executive Director’s Report: March 2014

The following topics are offered for discussion at our March 12 Board meeting:

CAPS Success Stories. Last month, I shared two success stories: One was about how the Hubbardston community had embraced our classrooms at HCS, and the second was a letter from a student at the Odyssey program thanking us for arranging an online course in Spanish. This month, I have included two stories of successfully integrating students back to a less restrictive environment and a story describing a successful partnership between CAPS and the sending district to provide a successful the augmentative communication experience.

Status of Programs and Services. As of March 7, enrollment in CAPS programs was 95. Enrollment in specific CAPS programs from November 2013 to February 2014 is shown in the following table. We have received eight (8) referrals since the January Board meeting.

CAPS Enrollment by Program: November 2013 to February 2014					
<u>Program</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	
Jr/Sr High	15	16	14	14	
Gateway	14	14	16	17	
Odyssey	5	5	4	5	
Kelly Day Pre	7	7	8	8	
Kelly Day Elem	6	6	7	7	
Kelly Day Middle	5	5	5	5	
Jr. Senators	8	8	8	8	
Sr. Senators	7	7	8	9	
Horizons	7	7	8	8	
Deaf pre	6	6	7	7	
LINK	6	6	8	7	
TOTAL	86	87	93	95	

New Hires. We have three new hires to report. First, Ms. Rena Payne has been hired as an assistant teacher for the Gateway program. Second, Ms. Kira Rosengren has been hired as a LPN for the Kelly Day programs at Hubbardston Center School. The final new hire is Ms. Judy Lang-Chiarilla as a math teacher in the Jr./Sr. High program. Actually, Ms. Lang-Chiarilla has worked for us on a contractual basis with Delta T-Group since the beginning of the school year. Her tenure with Delta T-Group has expired, so we have hired her as the math teacher for Jr./Sr. High. Please note that all new hires are aware that they may be transferred to other programs if the need arises. Also, staff are currently being cross-trained so that they can work effectively in several programs. Resumes for Ms. Lang-Chiarilla, Ms. Payne, and Ms. Rosengren are available upon request.

Donations. CAPS has received \$280 in donations for the retirement fund. The donations will be presented for a vote at our March 12 Board meeting.

Update on Space Needs. CAPS continues to look for space for the Gateway and Jr./Sr. programs. Two voting items on the March agenda are relevant to this search: First, a draft RFP for classroom space is included in the Board packet, and Board members will be asked to vote on whether to proceed with refining and issuing this RFP. Second, a RFP or a joint CAPS-FLLAC office space has been included in the Board packet. Again, Board members are asked to vote on whether to refine and issue this RFP.

Virtual School Initiative. As previously reported, a group of superintendents, curriculum directors, and other district staff have been meeting to develop a virtual school experience for the region's students. The Board should be aware that CAPS, along with FLLAC, may be asked to take responsibility for coordinating this regional effort. Therefore, I am including this item in my Director's Report for discussion at our March Board meeting.

Suicide Prevention Task Force. Another important initiative is included in the report. At the December Board meeting, Dr. John Salovardos provided an overview of the activities of the suicide prevention task force. He also presented some rather startling statistics on the extent of the problem in this region. Dr. Salovardos has asked CAPS to help promote the initiative and to assist in arranging a meeting with the area superintendents. Again, this item is included with this Director's report for discussion at our March meeting. (*Note.* Dr. Salovardos provided an overview of the initiative to a group of regional special education directors this past Friday, March 7.)

DESE/Collaborative Developments. As reported previously, the CAPS Agreement was approved by DESE for distribution to member school committees for approval. The second reading of the Agreement is on the March agenda. If approved, the Agreement will be distributed to school committee chairs. In another development, a redraft of H.458, "An Act relative to educational collaboratives has been introduced. The redraft of the Act promotes the concept of a "lead" collaborative for each of six regions and eliminates the voting status of a DESE representative on collaborative boards. A copy of the bill is included in Board packets, and other changes in the Act will be discussed at our March meeting.