

CAPS Collaborative

Director's Report

June 8, 2016

Graduation: CAPS Collaborative has 3 graduates this year from Fitchburg, Quabbin and Leominster. A celebration was held June 3, 2016 with staff, parents, Board Members, district reps and fellow students. Each student was presented with a diploma as well as a personalized gift selected by staff. What a great day for everyone. We are very proud of our graduates. Our students overcome not only the rigors of High School but their own personal challenges making their success an even bigger accomplishment.

Board Member Appointments: Board member appointments are trickling in. Just a reminder we will need a copy of the School Committee minutes from the meeting in which each member was appointed. Members new to the Board will need to complete a short orientation assessment through the DESE for all new Collaborative Board Members. Once we enter you as new member into the system you will receive an email with the link. Please let me know if you have any trouble with the link we have had a glitch with one new member. I apologize ahead for any confusion.

Summer Programs: We are experiencing an increase in our summer program participation in all programs but especially at the Gateway High School Program. We will be holding the summer program for a six week period starting the week of July 5th and running until August 11th on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Summer is bit more relaxed with hands on activities and theme based units. The staff and students are excited about the change of pace and looking forward to events planned.

Handbook Committee: I have been working all year with a group of staff to review the current employee handbook. We have had wonderful conversation and the time has been used to gain insight into employee concerns and for staff to get to know me better and understand my leadership style. I would request a sub-committee from the Board to review the handbook and look at possible changes we could bring to the whole board in the fall.

Yearend Summary: As I close out my first year here at CAPS and reflect on what has gone on I am pleased with our overall results. We have hired several talented dedicated staff to add to

our already committed group of employees. We have worked hard to stay within a budget that was very tight right from the start. Our enrollment continues to increase in all programs. We are having great conversations about goals for CAPS and future growth opportunities. Overall I feel good about the accomplishments from my first year and look forward to tackling new endeavors over the next few years. I feel that I bring a good background and experience to this position and that it has been a good match both for me and the organization. I have enjoyed working with each of you and your dedication and support for CAPS is overwhelming. I offer a special thank you to those Board members who are moving on to new experiences. As I say to everyone who asks me about my new job I truly feel blessed to have the opportunity to lead the CAPS Collaborative organization. Thank you for supporting and giving me this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted:

Cindy Landanno