

CAPS Collaborative

Director Report

March 8, 2017

Included in your packet this month is our draft budget for FY18. The budget work has included a review of student data, patterns of referrals and input from the program administrators. The budget reflects program expansion, program consolidation, and several staff additions. I look forward to the board discussion regarding areas for consideration as we move this budget forward.

CAPS hosted a joint Legislative Breakfast with MASC on Friday March 3, 2017. The meeting was well attended and great dialog took place around the state of the budget and activities related to education on the Hill. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase our programs and talk about the great work CAPS is doing for our students and member districts.

This past week we met with DESE representatives to learn about the process to complete a mid-cycle coordinated program review. You will remember that when I first came on board CAPS was just wrapping up a full Coordinated Program Review. Every three years DESE conducts a mid-cycle review focused on Special Education Compliance. The Mid-Cycle Review will involve looking at procedures and process around programming, student records, staffing patterns, group size and regulation compliance. We will begin our work this spring with a DESE site visit scheduled for the 2018 school year. I feel very confident that we will do very well with this review as we have created and maintained many compliance criteria since we had our last review.

Our High School Science teacher, Tina Grammel, was recently notified that she will be the recipient of a Biogen Foundation Ignite the Power of Stem in MA Grant. Her project titled, "Introduction to Robotics and Engineering" was well received by the grant review team. The letter of award indicated that her proposal was one of 20 ideas that rose to the top for the selection team. CAPS will receive \$2000.00 to start the project. I want to recognize her efforts to educate our students. She is an excellent teacher and is always looking for ways to challenge our student's learning. Congratulation Tina on a job well done.

At the end of our open enrollment period we are excited to report that 47 staff have opted to participate in the 401k match program. Not everyone will reach the \$1000 match between now and the end of the school year. We have been able to plan for CAPS contribution in this year's budget and have included the full potential liability in the FY 18 budget. The staff have expressed a sincere appreciation for this benefit. As an organization, it is good to see that the new benefit has so many more of our employees participating.

CAPS will be joining MOEC to work jointly with DESE to be part of facilitator groups looking at special education and specialty education licensure as the department begins a review of license criteria. We are especially interested in the areas of Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing as well as Teachers of the Visually Impaired. It is very difficult to find teachers with these credentials and it will be helpful to be a part of shaping the future of teachers going into this field.

CAPS will be hosting a Blood Drive sponsored by Boston Children's Hospital on March 25, 2017 9:00 to 3:00. This blood drive is in memory of Kelly O'Brien, the student our Kelly Day programs are named for. Kelly was a wonderful young lady who not only attended our programs, when young but later came to volunteer in the programs, before her passing 10 years ago. Her family has always stayed connected to CAPS and this Blood Drive is an annual event held in her memory. We are pleased to help support this wonderful cause on her ten-year anniversary.

Respectfully Submitted:

Cindy Landanno, Executive Director

March 3, 2018