



Gill-Montague Regional School District

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To: School Committee
From: Michael Sullivan, Superintendent
Date: May 23, 2017
Re: Committee Meeting Report

1. Yesterday, my office received a written resignation message from School Committee member Marge Levenson. Marge has served on the committee since 2010 and I would like to thank her for her dedicated service to the school district. In accordance with district policy BBBE, the Committee will need to set and publicize a date for the receipt of letters of interest and a date for the actual appointment to fill Marge's vacancy.
2. The district has hired the law firm of Bulkley & Richardson in Springfield to assist us in gaining a better understanding of the changes in our anticipated Medicaid reimbursements. I will inform you of what we learn through the firm as this information becomes available.
3. Recently, the question arose as to whether or not grade six students at Gill Elementary School could be eligible to compete on Great Falls Middle School athletic teams. I called the MIAA/MSSAA (athletic oversight organizations) and learned that students from an elementary school are not allowed to play on athletic teams for another school, even in the same district, if the schools have different principals. I was also told that the district could submit a written request for such an arrangement and they would review it. At this time, I am not recommending that we pursue this process, however, if we did so, I would want the Committee to first hear from the athletic director and school principals.
4. Our high school principal, Annie Leonard, is pursuing a competitive grant from an organization called the Barr Foundation that could potentially fund a major initiative to re-envision how students experience high school. The foundation is interested in supporting schools that wish to provide all students with access to learning experiences beyond traditional classrooms. These could include career development experiences to learn with private sector companies and non-profit organizations as well as increasing the opportunities for students to get an early start with college courses at GCC. Accompanying this report is information about the grant. If progress with this grant opportunity continues to move in a positive direction, I will ask Principal Leonard to provide you with more detailed information about this project.
5. On May 17, Joanne Blier and I met with members of the Gill Selectboard and Finance Committee to review our FY18 budget proposal. We also discussed the recent changes that have impacted our budget as well as our capital projects requests. Members of both bodies expressed interest in taking actions to support increased state funding for the district.