



Regional School Unit #34

Alton, Bradley, and Old Town

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February 17, 2021 – Report to the Board

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Highlights

- While there's more than a third of this school year remaining, our staff are laying groundwork for expanded and targeted summer programming to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on students' academic, social, and emotional needs. I appreciate the staff who've participated in brainstorming sessions, generating great ideas for effective and engaging programming. Here are some examples:
https://padlet.com/jon_doty/3mee2v34zo1izanp
- As part of this work we've also begun to do some pre-recruiting of external staff, anticipating that we may have need for new-to-us staff in addition to our existing staff who choose to participate in summer programming. As a side benefit, we've snagged a couple of precious substitutes during this recruitment!
Please help us share the "Earn While You Learn" effort:
tinyurl.com/y5zfjr4c
- Also in anticipation that we may need more new-to-us staff for summer programming, we've been brainstorming with some partners what a late-spring program of professional development and training might look like. We'll blink and May/summer will be here!
- A colleague from each grade span and I continue to participate in an Anti-Racism Study Group; the texts and instructor stimulate deep thinking and productive discourse. It's notable that this opportunity, like several others, would likely not have emerged pre-pandemic for a sustained effort, as the facilitator lives and works full time in Oakland, CA. Pre-pandemic, something like this likely would have been much more expensive, and likely a one day "sit and git" style conference, requiring a 1-2 hour drive each way and possibly a hotel stay. Now, it's a sustained effort over 4 months, in-between reading, and each session requiring a 1-minute commute to my cold basement office. Things like this are a silver lining to the clouds of the pandemic!
- Our partners at the YMCA and I participated this week with the Lerner Foundation Board in sketching out what an Aspirations Incubator Program network might look like after the Foundation's funding wraps up in 2023. The Lerner Foundation chose to go "all in" on the AIP program, expending 100% of its funds to support programs like our River Runners partnership with the YMCA.

Every student deserves to make continuous progress in school.

High on our lists, as well as other AIP partners' lists, were ongoing professional efforts to help keep programs running with the model even as staff inevitably turn over, as well as data collection and marketing efforts to help programs show their impact and seek ongoing funding support.

River Runners is inspired by Trekkers, Inc. and their 10 Youth Programming Principles and is part of the Emanuel and Pauline A. Lerner Foundation's Aspirations Incubator Program (a pilot initiative focused on establishing long-term, mentoring-based youth development models in eight rural communities and small cities across Maine).

ESEA programs (Title IA, IIA, IVA) and CRF/ESSER programs

- Budgeting for our ESEA programs is ongoing, in parallel with the RSU #34 budget process, and based on the strengths and needs identified through a community process. For information on how to be involved, please contact Jon.Doty@rsu34.org or Dr. Doty at 827-3932.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Doty", written in a cursive style.

Jon Doty