



# Regional School Unit #34

Alton, Bradley, and Old Town

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March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Report to the Board

## **Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Highlights**

On Friday March 8<sup>th</sup> we had our first scheduled in-service day in quite some time. Our staff had the opportunity to participate in a regional event focusing on social-emotional learning and trauma-impacted students keynoted by nationally-known author Heather Forbes (*Help for Billy*). The event also had some 20 breakout sessions taught by state and regional educators including our own James Wohlgemuth.

Districtwide, our teaching teams created plans for the day, identifying what local efforts they would make to take leaps forward that can't be done in the day-to-day, the outcomes they planned to reach, and which regional opportunities (if any) fit their plan. They were guided by parameters and examples set by the Professional Growth & Performance Evaluation Steering Committee and by the guidance and approval of their administrators.

After returning from the keynote I visited a small fraction of the teaching teams at work in several of our schools. I celebrate and appreciate the teacher leadership that was evident throughout. In many other places in-service days are wholly planned for the teachers, which often leads to frustration about relevance. With our culture of professionalism and empowerment I believe we made very effective use of the opportunity, with all educators sharing ownership of the day's success. I interact with peers across the region and state from many other districts, and I know this doesn't happen everywhere, or without great long-term effort to develop culture.

Just a few days later another great example of teacher leadership was on display, as our LMS science teachers gathered to work on some long-term planning to bring even greater coherence to the spiraling program they've developed and how they assess the science and engineering practices.

I was taught once that "the three E's" of leadership are eagerness, expertness, and example. I'm proud and appreciative to see those throughout our district

## **Title IA, IIA, and IVA Programs**

The budgets for programs funded by the Every Student Succeeds Act are being developed in parallel with the local budget. Public comment and involvement is welcome! Please contact me for details on how to participate.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jon Doty

*Every student deserves to make continuous progress in school.*