

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

February/March/2012

We have had an unusually mild winter. My need to wake up at 4:15 a.m. to check the weather has been few and far between. I hope this continues and will thus insure a June 13th final school day. However, it has been known to snow in March, April and even in May. Hopes held high that the spring comes in like a lamb and no lion exists.

As many of you know, I will be leaving Narragansett in early June. I will be the Superintendent in Middleborough, a community closer to home and to family needs that have arisen most recently. I have enjoyed the students at Narragansett. Working with them during my student advisory, joining in the powder puff game each year, cheering the teams, and participating in the dramatic events, all have given me the opportunity to get to know the students. When I visit the schools, I am greeted in each class with smiles and I enjoy discussing with them what they are learning. Creating full-day Kindergarten, bolstering other academic areas, while being mindful that a well-rounded citizen is one who is learned in body and mind. Both are important and, in a perfect world, should never compete. I have enjoyed working with some outstanding staff and administrators here at Narragansett. The communities of Templeton and Phillipston are blessed with some wonderful adults educating their students. This is a school district improving everyday.

On March 19, at 6:30 p.m., in the KIVA, I am inviting parents/guardians to a discussion about redesigning the early release afternoons to mornings. We are required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide more and more meaningful professional development to our staff members. Given the new evaluation model for teachers and administrators, we will need some additional quality professional development time. Due to staggered afternoon dismissals, we lose much common time. Early release afternoons are not providing enough time to meet as a staff from PreK-12. We are considering, and want your input, teachers report to school at their regular morning time, but instead of teaching in the morning, we would have staff meetings, professional development, and other meetings (now difficult to schedule in the afternoons).

Students will come to school on the same schedule as a snow ñlate openingö day, go to class to check in, and then to lunch before beginning classes. There will be no more afternoon meetings for staff. Some staff need to coach or provide assistance to students; this proposal will give them time without the competition of afternoon meetings. We would like to consider trying it out during our May professional development day by having teachers in during the morning with students arriving two hours after the usual opening of their school day. We will explain the format in further detail on March 19th.

Roseli Weiss