

***Lafayette Regional School Board***  
***Principal's Report***  
***August 16, 2023***

Greetings Lafayette Regional School Board members! It is a great honor to be presenting my very first board report to you all. I want to say thank you first and foremost for the kindness and support that I have received from everyone. Particularly, I would like to express appreciation to Meg and Sue in the front office as well as Gordi, Kate, Toni and everyone at the SAU office for their patience, kindness, and humor. They have all been instrumental in helping me get acclimated to this new position and for that I am very grateful. It is very clear to me that Lafayette Regional School and the town of Franconia in general is a very special place. The last month and a half have been very busy. Some of the highlights are as follows:

**1. New coat of paint and a new desk in my office**

Gordie suggested that with him moving all of his stuff out it would be a good time to freshen up the paint. It looks great! Thank you to Bob, Eric, and Jean for all of the work that they did to get the job completed in a timely fashion. Feel free to stop in and take a look sometime.

**2. July PD days with staff**

My first official job as principal was to run a staff PD day on July 24th. [Here is the Presentation](#) that I used that day. My goal for this day was to introduce myself and communicate my professional goals for the school year as principal, as well as, facilitate the process of coming up with school goals for Lafayette for the 2023-2024 school year. The goals that we decided upon are as follows:

- Improve the culture and climate in the building
- Improve over-all communication throughout the building
- Support students with clarity and consistency with a clear MTSS (Multi-tiered System of Support) structure

On July 25th and 26th, Garret Ferguson and Cathi Burton facilitated two days of training on the Science of Reading. The goal of the two days was to come away with a vision statement of sorts for Lafayette regarding how we will approach literacy instruction at our school. Here are the presentations that they created.

[Day 2](#) & [Day 3](#) The Lafayette Literacy Statement that we created after our 2 days is as follows: *Lafayette Regional School District is dedicated to providing research-based, engaging literacy instruction where students are known, challenged, and believed in as readers and writers. Our vision is for all students to be confident and competent readers and writers who use literacy to actively seek out knowledge, think critically to evaluate information, make informed decisions, and communicate effectively and responsibly.*

Thank you to Garret and Cathi for all of the work that they both put into these two days. All three days were very successful and I felt quite positive about the things that we accomplished.

### **3. LETRS for Administrators Training**

On August 2nd and 3rd I attended the first 2 virtual training sessions of the Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) training. It was very valuable and relevant to me, particularly in light of the conversations that we had regarding where we want to go with our literacy instruction during the July PD days.

### **4. NH Principal's Academy**

On July 9th and 10th I attended the NH Principal's Academy that was put on by DrummondWoodsum Attorneys at Law. Some of the important NH / Federal policies that schools are legally bound to were gone over in detail, and new laws that were just passed this summer were discussed as well. Particularly, one law, House Bill 170, states that all schools are required to teach cursive writing and multiplication facts by the end of 5th grade effective this school year. Teachers in grades 3-5 are looking into possible programs such as [Handwriting without Tears](#) to use to fulfill this requirement.

### **5. Meet the Principal Meetings and Staff Survey**

I have also scheduled what I have been calling "meet the principal" meetings with any staff who would like to come in. There was no agenda for these meetings, I simply wanted to get to know the staff members a little bit better and give them a voice to express to me anything that I could do as principal to make their job teaching students more effective. The meetings have been very worthwhile and

often resulted in rich conversations about the most effective ways to make sure all students are given what they need. In addition, I have been able to learn a great deal about our staff and have begun to build relationships as well. I also sent a survey to staff asking some questions about common themes that I saw beginning to emerge in my conversations with staff. Particularly around the topics of benchmarking students and using data to inform instruction, and adopting some sort of discipline protocol. [Here](#) are the results of that survey. There is obviously a lot to unpack here and no snap discussions will be made, but one of my goals was to see how things are currently working and then assess where we can do better. Gathering information is the first step in that process.

## **6. Handbooks**

Something else that I have been working on is creating new handbooks that refer to the current school board policies. [Here is the new Parent / Student Handbook.](#) I am still working on the Staff handbook.

I am looking forward to the start of school and can't wait for students to arrive on August 28th. They are the reason we do everything that we do, afterall! I also look forward to working diligently with all of you to ensure that the students of Franconia, Sugar Hill, and Easton are given the best possible education in a safe, caring and engaging environment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Kopp

Principal