



Director's Report

March 13, 2024

Student Enrollment: 182

Staffing: We currently have ASL interpreter positions open in our middle and high school DHHP.

We have 5 days of PTA services available for contract services and one day of OT services available.

Referrals:

- Kelly Day: 5 referrals
- Senators Program - 2 referrals
- Gateway School - 5 (2 students for potential fall placement)
- DHHP - 3 referrals

Coordinated Program Review: We have completed the orientation for our mid-cycle review with DESE Program Review Chairperson, Christine Romancewicz, and uploaded any additional documents requested. Our on-site review will take place on March 27th and 28th.

Ayer-Shirley Regional School District: Dr. Adam Renda, Superintendent of Schools, shared the news that the Ayer Shirley school committee had voted to apply for membership to CAPS Collaborative and have sent a letter of intention to Pete Stephens, Board Chair. If approved this will be our first new member district since Leominster joined in 2011.

FY25 Budget process: CAPS leadership team including program directors continue to meet to prepare the FY25 budget. Timelines moving forward would be to review a preliminary budget with the Finance Subcommittee on March 12th. It will then be presented at our March board meeting. Ongoing discussions around program expansions and staffing needs will continue this month. A draft budget will be brought to a second Finance Subcommittee meeting prior to the April Board meeting.

Possible Expansion:

- DHH (Pre-K)
- Gateway (Elementary classrooms)
- Senators (Elementary classrooms)

Space: In order to expand the Senators program, we have started to explore available space options in the area. We have been actively looking at buildings in Gardner and recently toured the New Braintree Center School. Ayer Shirley has let us know they may have a second pre-K classroom for our use for the 2024- 2025 school year. Space at Sonoma Square has been identified for the Gateway elementary expansion. A facilities subcommittee will be scheduled for the end of March.

Special Education Directors Group: 3/7/24. Presentation by Dr. Courtney Dunne "*Language Access and Social Development. Why it matters for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students*". This presentation featured information on the importance of early language acquisition and social development for deaf and hard of

hearing students. Networking time and a discussion around possible district needs for next year was very helpful as we continue to look for opportunities to support member districts. Feedback from this meeting was terrific. We will continue to schedule monthly meetings going forward with our next meeting scheduled for 4/11/2024.

MOEC Board Meeting 3/11/24: Secretary Patrick Tutwiler attended this meeting. Board members were able to review the work of Massachusetts Collaboratives, initiatives, and shared challenges we face.

Monty Tech/CAPS Grant Partnership, STEP Program: We are making progress on plans for this targeted training program. Program staff have been identified and program candidates are being selected with a targeted start date of 3/28.2024.

Highlights and Initiatives:

- Gateway School: CAPS Quarterly School Newspaper
- Gateway STEM Fair planned for May

Upcoming Events:

- Job Fair
 - MWCC, March 19th
 - Fitchburg State University, March 26th
 - Northeastern University, April 26th
- Family ASL series – Dan Magennis