

To: Eric Waddell, Superintendent  
From: Mathew Kiernan  
Date: November 16, 2017  
RE: Quarterly School Counselor, District-Level Team, Report

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Overall we have had a productive year in terms of meeting as a district-level team. We have spent some time discussing when and where our meetings will take place, as we are trying to meet at the same time when staff are discussing PE/PG at the various schools, but it is my understanding that some of those dates had to be moved. Therefore we are trying to meet our needs as a team while still attending to the various needs of each school, and making sure we as the counselors in that school are up to speed and present at “Nuts and Bolts” meetings.

Our “lofty” goals for this year, in no particular order:

- Create a comprehensive and connected K-12 Guidance Curriculum, in one like format
- Revise our district-wide Suicide Plan and Protocols and bring those up to speed
- Be involved in the district’s “Civil Rights Initiative”

It is fair to say that we have worked heavily on the third goal on this list, the other two have not received as much attention as of yet. We also dedicate a portion of each of our meetings to discussing specific families/cases that we share, pseudo-networking....what it is is making sure that we are all on the same page with families and not duplicating or disrupting efforts.

Accomplishments/Work of note:

- The counselors, along with district nurses, were involved with bringing Sue Mackey Andrews of the [Maine Resilience Building Network](#) to Kittery on 10/6 for a full day training entitled: “Building Strong Kids, Families and Communities: The Impact of Trauma including ACEs and Resilience in Action.” This training was made possible by our partnership with Sally Manninen at York Hospital’s choose to be Healthy Coalition. It was a full day training for all counselors, nurses, and ed-techs in the Kittery district. It was also opened up for interested parties from neighboring districts.
- We spent some time meeting with Susan Johnson. She has some \$\$ to spend from her DOD grant and wants to know how our roles as counselors might intersect with her grant’s goals of “addressing social/emotional needs related to ‘transitions’.”
  - Susan has a number of trainings coming up provided by the [Military Child Education Coalition](#) (MCEC) and counselors provided our feedback and recommendations.
  - Topics include:
    - Keys to Success in Elementary School
    - Can we also do Homework: Motivation, Strategies, and Support
    - The College Application Process
    - Staying Connected to Your Child’s Education During Deployment
    - Learning Styles
    - Mindset and College Mindset for ages 12-15
- We have reviewed our protocol and workflow as it pertains to our homeless student population. We have created shared forms so that we can most effectively assist our families and fulfill their needs as well as the needs of the folks in our schools and at the district office level that have to manage other aspects of these situations.
- Counselors have been approached by officer Cummer at KPD to let us know they have resources to provide Thanksgiving meals. We worked with them as well as with the folks who have traditionally provided Holiday Baskets in an effort to consolidate names and make the process as easy and least-restrictive as possible.
  - Officer Cummer’s message that was shared in schools and via IC to parents:  
“Operation Give a Gobble kicks off this weekend through the Kittery Police Department. If you or

*someone you know could use some help this Thanksgiving, please contact Officer Brian Cummer at [bcummer@kitterypolice.com](mailto:bcummer@kitterypolice.com) OR drop by and see Paula or Rene at Circle Subs. Baskets with all of the fixings for a thanksgiving meal will be delivered on Sunday (November 19) or they can be picked up at the Kittery PD after 10am. If you have any specific questions about this wonderful opportunity you can contact Officer Cummer or one of the School Counselors at Shapleigh."*

- Counselors met with representatives of the USCG: Jason Boucher and Shano Ezzell
  - The Coast Guard is VERY interested in assisting in our schools, **wherever possible**, through their "Partnership in Education" program. As of yet there is nothing formally established in our area.
  - Counselors will reach out to school staff to see if anyone has any specific needs they think can be met by the available men and women.
  - The Coast Guard reps will poll their available staff to see what they would like to do for us, and to determine if there are specific skill sets/interest etc. that would mesh well with our needs or the general needs of a school district.
  - Broad Examples that have worked in the past:
    - Serving as Guest instructors
    - Leadership Trainings
    - Ship Tours
    - Working in gyms/weight rooms providing guidance
    - STEM-related seminars/presentations
  
- The counselors at all levels have spent a great deal of time on issues around our current Civil Rights Initiative.
  - Going back to 2016-2017 the counselors met with community representatives and district level administration to listen to community concerns.
  - Since that meeting the counselors have met on numerous occasions to discuss not only what is currently being done to address concerns, but also how to best move forward.
  - The Civil Rights Initiative, and all 3 phases, are a direct result of Superintendent Waddell and the counselors coming together to craft a response that integrates the school and the community in an effort to make all students feel safe.
  - Counselors at all levels have attended Civil Rights Team Project trainings and are advising the team at the Shapleigh school
  - Counselors have put out a call for members of the Kittery Civil Rights Advisory Council (KCRAC) and have vetted all those who responded with an eye towards balance and full representation
  - Counselors have been involved in planning meetings with Bruce Mallory of NH Listens to discuss what the schools and community are currently experiencing and how we can move forward with a community conversation as well as how to support the KCRAC and the overall mission of the Kittery Civil Rights Initiative