

Superintendent's Annual Report

2012 – 2013

It is always my pleasure to provide the Marlborough citizens with the annual education report and once again I have so much good news to report. The most exciting part of any school report is about the children for whom the school exists. Our students have again outscored similar elementary school districts on the Connecticut Mastery Test. Our sixth graders remain among the elite in the entire state. This is a sure sign that our children are moving on to RHAM well-prepared for the challenges of the middle and high school years.

While academic success is important, we emphasize a well-rounded education in which our children are equally accomplished. Our music students received statewide honors. Our art students displayed their artistic talents throughout the town and won awards in international competition. Our budding scientists won awards locally and at the state level in a combined Science Fair/Invention Convention event. Our creative thinkers achieved international recognition as they participated in the Future Problem Solving International Competition held in Indiana. Our education goes beyond academics and the arts with an emphasis on civic responsibility and respect for others as demonstrated by the many collections, food drives and assistance given to families and children less fortunate.

Of course, all of this is possible because of the support from families and the financial support from the citizens of Marlborough. We are conscious of this generosity and have been good stewards of the finances and trust of the broader community. This year we received a grant from the Lowes Foundation to equip the new STEAM room. This allows teachers to conduct more in-depth investigation into science, mathematics, engineering, the arts and technology at no expense to the taxpayers. Just recently a group of parents raised significant funds to install a beautiful, state-of-the-art outdoor basketball court. We monitored our spending in the general operating budget and generated a fund balance that allowed us to pre-fund a new computer lab in the upper grade wing, update computers in the media center, implement a new reading series, implement many new security plans and support initiatives that would otherwise be unaffordable.

The Board of Education and I worked closely with the Board of Finance and First Selectman to develop a multi-year school improvement plan that would update classroom furniture, implement more security efforts and provide new lighting in the community room and gym areas that are used by the entire town. All this became possible with no additional funding but rather by a creative use of building rental fees. Maintaining our building is a high priority and with this plan and funding we can assure the taxpayers that our building is not only well maintained but is an updated, attractive and educationally pleasant place to teach our children. With our partnership and close work with the Board of Finance we have been able to reduce our debt with our food services provider and still return almost \$95,000 to the town at the end of this fiscal year. That's quite a commitment to partnership and community consciousness.

Of course creating such an educational environment that produces such accomplished students is the direct result of great teachers, who are among the best, brightest and the most dedicated and caring in their profession. Bringing great teachers together with the amazing parents who support our teacher's efforts through teacher mini-grants and funding of technology allows us to be a world class school. Combine great students, families and teachers with a supportive citizenry and you have the formula for success. It makes us a school district that is also a lighthouse district for other schools and for that we should be very proud.

For every teacher and support staff, child and family, every member of the Board of Education and from me personally as your Superintendent, I say thank you to the entire Marlborough community.

David P. Sklarz, Ed.D.