

# CAVENDISH TOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## P☆TRIOTS

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### **Report For The Board November 2019**

**Naturally, a great deal of my time in the past two weeks has been consumed by the incident at the town/school library.**

**Friday, October 25, after 5:30 p.m.**, the assistant librarian noticed a patron had a gun under some clothing. She reported this to Kata Welch, the librarian and then Kata reported the incident to me. I asked Kata to report the situation to the state police.

Senior Trooper Kevin Hughes informed me and Meg Powden that the woman was located and her gun was confiscated. This woman has been issued a citation. Senior Trooper Hughes assured me that she does not have access to any other weapons. The gun was unloaded and she stated she carried it for protection.

The library remained closed until the Board had a chance to meet and discuss this situation. Senior Trooper Hughes mentioned to me, that on Friday afternoon as the students were being dismissed he observed an individual of concern on our school grounds on his cell phone. This is the fourth individual that I am aware of who has been in close proximity to our school, sometimes our students, and now in the actual school building that is of concern or has exhibited concerning behavior.

**Wednesday, October 30, 2019**, Meg and I met with Bob Evens, Library Board Chair, Kata Welch, Librarian, Brendan McNamara, Town Manager, Jon Beaman, Maintenance Supervisor, and State Trooper Anthony French. We met to discuss the status of the library and when it might be opened for the patrons and when our students will access the library. Meg contacted VSBIT about this situation and met with their School Safety Consultant, Mark Moody on Wednesday afternoon. He assessed the situation and spoke with Kata, Bob and us.

The Library Board has authority over the library. The Board called an emergency meeting on **Friday, November 6th at 6:00 p.m.** Meg and I attended that meeting.

Meg informed the group that our students will only access the library when the library is closed to the public. Our students will have physical education or recess behind the school when the library is open.

On **Friday evening, November 1**, the Library Board agreed to share the library space for the students and patrons at different times. In the meantime, the interior library door will remain locked and the window will be covered up. The library will adopt and publish a code of conduct. They will display a no weapons, alcohol, or tobacco sign. There will be no more warnings for people who violate rules. Access to the library for the person who brought the weapon is suspended until her day in court.

The library will be open to the school all day Monday and the rest of the workweek from 9-12. The children will have recess out back when the library is open to the public. The library will get a walkie-talkie so we can be in contact after school and in case of an emergency.

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#### MISC

- **We had a wonderful Halloween party all thanks to the FCT committee. I was in a meeting for most of it and am thankful that we have some amazing volunteers. Denise Hughes, Kelly Gadouas, Sarah Cook, Lisa Marks, and their spouses hit it out of the park. Former PTO President, Sheila Roby was on hand to judge the costumes.**









- **CURRICULUM:** I am a member of the PD strands for the faculty. This means that I am in on the conversations and learning with the teachers as they wrestle with new thinking. I am also co-leading the deep dive into writing assessments at every grade level with Michael Eppolito.
- **SAFETY:** The entire staff underwent a crisis training with the Springfield Fire Department.
- **NURSING:** I am getting a new school nurse. He or she will be an RN and not an LPN, will still work part-time for 20 hours.
- **STAFFING:** I have hired another para for grade four so we are all fully staffed in regards to academics.
- **PBE DDEP DIVE:** Michael Eppolito is leading (and has been for 5 years at the HS) a new way of thinking about planning. I am meeting with each teacher about how she plans and we are dedicating time all year to talk about our learning together.
- We had an all-school Breast Cancer day on the 25th of October, organized by my new assistant, Donna Hamilton. We raised about 40 dollars. See below.



**FAMILY EVENTS:**

**We hold our Annual Turkey Bingo on November 15. We use the funds to take kids on Field Trips and to create interesting enriching programming for the families.**

**We host our Annual Turkey Dinner on Wednesday the 20th of November. It should be another excellent event.**