## Head of Schools/RA Principal’s Report for September 3, 2019 Board Meeting

Keri Gelenian

| **To attract to Rivendell students, parents and faculty who value a strong academic focus** | 1. We hosted a new student evening in August.  
2. I organized a session for new teachers to the district. It was a tightly organized workshop focused on learning.  
3. The district PD day went smoothly. It was well received by the staff.  
4. COL membership has been established and our first meeting is September 11th.  
5. Steve Lindemann and two teachers from RA and two teachers from SME attended the three-day Critical Exploration workshop in Cambridge.  
6. I met with the head of NEASC in August to get an overview of the process and cost. Both have changed significantly. The process is internally driven, which gives us the opportunity to gather evidence, reflect and establish an agenda for the future. The cost $3,500 per year for membership and approximately $6,000 for a full visit in 2022.  
7. We received a $15,000 grant to support this year’s summer reading. |
| **To cultivate the most supportive school culture possible** | 1. Carrie Lang, Laszlo Bardos, students and other staff worked extremely hard over the spring and summer reshaping our library. The book collection had its first weeding.  
2. Story Graves repainted and reshaped the back of the library into an inviting space for the Academic Mentoring program.  
3. Carrie Lang is organizing new literacy testing for the district in grades 2-10.  
4. We performed a huge amount of work on the building this summer. We removed mountains of junk from classrooms.  
5. The maintenance crew had our buildings looked great on opening day.  
6. The advisory team leaders met over the summer. |
7. The summer reading team met over the summer.
8. Angel Parkin worked tirelessly to update MMS for SME and WES.
9. Stephanie Chesnut created a new approach for dealing with cell phones.
10. Stephanie Chesnut and Brynne MacMurtry will engage the students in selecting students for the new Connections Peer Leadership program.
11. Chad Steen and Emily Cousens have created a very strong health/leadership focus for 7th and 8th grade health and the counseling class.
12. The new faculty: Chad Steen, Health/PE; Christian Durgin, Special Education; Jeff Decker, H.S. Physical Science; and Paul DeSantis, H.S. Math are great additions to the RA staff and culture.
13. Doc Browne has made a smooth transition into his role as our new digital culture leader. His work has been instrumental in our transition to office 360. The Makers Space has grown.
14. 5 students attended Upward Bound and we have our first cohort of 6 students attend the SEAD program at Dartmouth.
15. The salad bar is a fantastic new addition to the cafeteria. All the vegetables arrive daily from the greenhouse.
16. The Lake Champlain bike trip was a success, and the outing club had good weather and fun while on their Caribbean kayak training trip in Maine.
17. We started the year with an excellent assembly led by Lyndsey and Scott McClure from World Story Exchange. The summer reading grant supports their work with us for the year.

To identify and effectively communicate a clear cohesive narrative of who we are as a

1. We are working on a new staff directory for the web page, and e-postings. I would like to have a hardcopy to hand out at choice nights.
2. Families received biographies of all new staff.
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