

Cov. evaluation system marks one year

Mandates from the Department of Education require teacher, administrator evaluations

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COVENTRY—The school committee and Superintendent Michael Convery reported Tuesday night that the new administrator evaluation system has successfully completed one pilot year and will begin implementation for this year.

Those in attendance, including Representative Lisa P. Tomasso, of district 29, commended the hard work put forth in constructing an evaluation system that will take into consideration all aspects of the job.

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) recently established new parameters for teacher and administrative evaluation systems to be fully implemented by 2012 to 2013 academic year.

According to RIDE's website, they will allow academic year 2011 to 2012 to be gradually implemented in order to allow educators time to practice and respond with feedback to RIDE.

"Leadership has to lead by example," said Tomasso at the meeting. "Teachers will have a far higher regard for the teacher evaluation process knowing that the person evaluating them is also being held to a standard."

Assistant Superintendent James Erinakes II confirmed that during the school's pilot year, they reflected on the process and made adjustments to better reach their goal in evaluations.

"This is not new to the committee—we've had different drafts along the way and were required to submit any changes to the system," said Erinakes. "There have been several changes since."

He stated that this includes changes to the language—to provide clarity—and new developments from RIDE including specific recommendations. The manual outlines what every standard means, according to Erinakes.

"The whole purpose is to improve your practice and do a better job for the kids," said Nancy Sprenghelmeyer, vice-chair of the school committee.

Sprenghelmeyer said that she had spoken with one of the principals regarding the new system and reported that the principal felt she grew as a result.

"She thought it would be the same experience for the teachers, once it is

rolled out and people get used to it," said Sprenghelmeyer. "It is a change."

Erinakes reported that not this academic year but next year, the ratings produced from the evaluations will become part of each administrators' record and should provide an accurate reflection of how they are doing.

According to Katherine Patenaude, the chair of the school committee, the evaluation system is a living document and the department will continue to make changes as they see fit.

"It [should] grow with the district, the people here and our goals here," said Patenaude.