

RCASA Board of Directors Meeting-February 28, 2019



**Reading
Coalition
Against
Substance
Abuse**

RCASA's mission is to strategically address our substance abuse problem that youth in Reading, Massachusetts abuse alcohol, prescription drugs, tobacco, and other illegal drugs at unacceptably high rates that emerge early in adolescence, happen frequently, and indicate heavy use. To realize our mission, we will promote a healthy community environment using the strategic prevention framework to ensure everyone who lives, works, or goes to school in Reading can enjoy an optimum quality of life."

SPOTLIGHT

"The Reading Public Schools and the Reading Coalition Against Substance Abuse and its work to support the whole student is included as an exemplary approach to supporting students' social, emotional, and academic development in a report released last month by a prestigious national commission. The Aspen Institute National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development's "From a Nation at Risk to a Nation at Hope" asserts that our nation is at a turning point, understanding that social, emotional, and cognitive development underpins children's academic learning. This breakthrough understanding about how people learn is fueling a growing movement to educate children as whole people, with social and emotional as well as academic needs, the report says." See attached for the official press release and report excerpt.

FOCUS

1. **Board Updates:** Officers still needed for President and Vice-President. Thanks to John Halsey & Bob LeLacheur for celebrating Julianne at the Select Board meeting on Feb. 26, 2019.
2. **RCASA Staffing**
 - Since January, 23 applications were received for the full-time RCASA Outreach Coordinator position. Eight candidates invited for 1st round of interviews. The first round interview team will include David Clark (Deputy Chief of Police), John Doherty (Supt. of Schools), Rich Abate (Lieutenant, Detectives Divisions/RCASA Daily Oversight), and Erica McNamara (RCASA Director).
3. **Reading Public Schools Projects**
 - **2019 Reading YRBS:** RCASA continued our role in coordinating the local YRBS process with Reading Public Schools. Parent letters for MS went out earlier this week. Binders are available for parents to review the MS survey and data collection begins in mid-March. Kate Boynton, RMHS Principal has assembled a team to support YRBS roll out. Parent info will go in out in April and students will take the survey at the end of April. Preliminary results will be released to districts in late June.
 - **2019 Spring SBIRT for 11th graders:** RMHS Nurses will begin the SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention & Referral to Treatment) process for 11th graders with RCASA support starting on March 11th. Screening will take place in March and early April to reach students prior to Junior Prom.
 - **Outreach:** The Director presented at Parker PTO on Feb. 6th on vaping prevention for 10 parents.
4. **Grants**
 - RCASA collaborated with Wakefield's coalition, police department and Eliot Community Care to co-write a grant application to Lahey Health to fund a potential pilot project to share a Recovery Coach. Unfortunately, we were not chosen for the grant. Some interesting information was gathered in writing the proposal. See attached.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Reading Public Schools and the Reading Coalition Against Substance Abuse Press Release
- Aspen Institute Report Highlighting RPS and RCASA, page 31, report excerpt
- Highlights from the Recovery Coach Grant proposal

Our next RCASA Board Meeting is March 28, 2019 from 5:30-6:30 pm.