

Paige Teves
March 16, 2010

Superintendent for the Day

To start this off, I would like to make note of how thankful I am to be given an opportunity like this. It was a great experience to see what it was like to have the job of a Superintendent of Acushnet Schools. My first definition of a Superintendent was a person who was the boss of a Principal, and to see all of the jobs and responsibilities of this position changed my whole perspective.

I learned there were certain requirements in becoming a Superintendent. Backgrounds in teaching and counseling are needed. Just like a teacher, you need to go through four of college; once you receive your Masters Degree and you are certified in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education you are capable of taking this position.

Superintendents cannot make changes to school policies but can suggest changes to the School Committee, and from there the School Committee makes the decisions. They have the responsibilities of submitting state applications or reports, evaluating people for positions in the school, studying current problems in the school district, and preparing agendas and budgets. They keep the School Committee informed of the schools' needs. Also, they are informed on student discipline and sometimes have to decide on punishments.

One of the questions I asked Mr. Donovan was, "Are you still working for the school in the summer?" He answered that he works in the building every day, and there are still decisions and changes to make for the school such as budget policies and MCAS. Another question was, "What is the most frustrating part of being a superintendent?" He answered, "The most frustrating part is getting the right resources for students." Because of the economy, there is more unemployment, which means fewer people working, which leads to fewer taxes and less payments, so they have to set budgets. There is less money to give to the school and town, so you can't offer as many things as you want. The best part of being a Superintendent is when you can actually approve new programs.

Spending the day with Mr. Donovan showed me how all the decisions for the school are made. In a student's point of view, when a change is made we don't really know how it was decided, all we know is that it is there. Now when a new program is added, changes in the school are made, and so on, I will know exactly what it had to go through to get here.