



Spencer East Brookfield Regional School District

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Superintendent's Report

March 16, 2017

First, Happy St. Patrick's Day this week....as we know, on March 17th almost everyone is Irish and participates in the wearing of the green!

Again this week we were once again reminded of the crazy NE weather and were buried in over a foot of snow that caused cancellation on Tuesday and a delayed opening on Wednesday.

The good news is that the official start of spring is March 20th- now only **4 days** away!

- **Budget and Candidate Screening**

The past month has once again been consumed with planning and budgeting for next school year. In addition, we are beginning to post anticipated vacancies for 17-18. Specifically, initial screening of candidates has begun to fill the PPS Director position being vacated by Ms. Chioda at the end of this school year as she moves on to her second career in law.

- **Summit on Poverty**

Last Friday I attended the MA Summit on Poverty @ Clark University. Given the magnitude of social-emotional learning needs of MA students, this day-long program focused on the root causes of poverty, funding and budgetary constraints, and examples of what school districts are doing to address the issues. Our District is tackling the issue through teacher training for trauma-sensitive classrooms, exploration of grant opportunities and networking with local agencies and officials to provide more effective access to resources. To this end, on Wednesday this week, Ms. Chioda, Chief Darrin and I met with the VP of Programs for the Health Foundation of Central MA to discuss a grant application for next school year that will provide staffing assistance for casework and community resources for both mental health and substance abuse.

- **Innovation**

- Innovation Lab planning for the HS is underway and we are very excited about this collaborative community space!
- MassCUE 2017 Grant Recipients for the District
 - Lori Button -3D Doodler Cathedral Building
 - Christine Gniadek- Beehive Coding
- Working on solar powered Wi-Fi for donated 16-passenger van

- **School Improvement Plans**
(SIPs) have been reviewed by School Councils at each school and are included in your packets. These coordinate with both the strategic 5-year District Improvement Plan and the 10-year Capital Plan.
- **School Calendar**
Proposed School Calendar for 17-18 is in your packet for approval at this meeting. I asked the Teachers' Union for input which was considered in this proposal. The Admin planned this calendar based on what we know right now. Unfortunately, we do not yet know the Department of Ed dates for standardized testing next spring and so may need to revise the calendar once the testing dates are published.
- **Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School**
- **Presentations**
 - METAA Conference –March 3, 2017
 - Harvard University Graduate School of Education - May 12, 2017
- **Summer Program and B/ASP Fees**
Currently the B/ASP services 70-100 children of the District on any given day by providing a safe environment in which the students are supervised in various activities. It is well known that this is a very inexpensive program that many parents take advantage of due to its convenience and low cost. During the course of the last year, many improvements have been made to the program. Director of the program Melissa Pervier and I will be meeting with interested parents about the B/ASP in the next few weeks to discuss plans for next year. Given that B/ASP is a self-sustaining tuition-based program, tonight we are recommending fees be raised Program fees have not been increased for over eight years.

In addition, due to interest and demand, we would like to propose an extension of the B/ASP through the end of June after school gets out and an additional summer program for July through the middle of August. Included in your packet are proposed fee increases for the school year program for 17-18 and the proposed program and fee schedule for this summer. Melissa is present tonight to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

N. Tracy Crowe, Ed.D.