



Spencer East Brookfield Regional School District

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Superintendent of Schools: N. Tracy Crowe, Ed.D.

Superintendent's Report

April 11, 2017

PPS Director

First, it is my pleasure to introduce Ms. Kara Westerman. Tonight I am seeking SC approval of her appointment to the position of Pupil Personnel Services Director replacing Carla Chioda who will be leaving the District to pursue a law career. Kara is highly qualified for this role -she joins us from the Worcester Public Schools where she has held the positions of Department Chair, Evaluation Team Chair and Site Administrator.

She holds a bachelor's degree in developmental psychology, a master's in education, and a master's in speech-language pathology. Officially Kara starts on July 1st but, prior to her official start date, expects to be in District periodically to meet staff, familiarize herself with our systems and review materials as she transitions to SEBRSD. Please join me in welcoming her to our learning community!

Gratitude, Budget and Capital Plan

I'd like to once again take a moment to thank my staff for the commitment they made to make the FY 18 budget season a smooth and effective one. This budget has been a roller-coaster ride to say the least, but they have stayed the course. In recent weeks, I heard from frustrated teachers and parents as to why we would choose to whittle down the conservative budget originally presented I feel their questions do deserve an answer tonight.

The reality for any budget is that material prices rise and salaries increase each year. It is illogical to think the final budget can be the same number year to year. At the beginning of this budget process, Administration presented a budget determined to be appropriate, effective and yet conservative for addressing District needs. After Administration developed the initial budget, it was then the decision of the School Committee to determine what it was willing to support at the Town Meetings. Administration was asked to remove several items from the Operational Budget and move them to the Capital Budget as well as reduce the final number. Therefore, the Operational Budget approved by the SC at its final vote on March 16th represents the minimum necessary for day-to-day services. When the SC presents the budget at the Town Meetings, towns will take a vote to accept or reject the budget.

We are all painfully aware of the reality that the NEASC Accreditation, scheduled for the fall, will once again cite the same deficiencies noted in the last review over ten years ago. It is time to recognize the need to fully support the District's schools. Whether you are a teacher, town official, administrator, parent, student, or community member- please recognize the urgency and the importance of this Community getting behind the schools and supporting our students' futures.

So- tonight, I feel compelled to answer the question by stating emphatically that it is imperative that the Capital Plan, small as it is for this coming year, be supported so it can start to move us forward in order to restore

facilities and the physical resources required for 21st century learning environments and the efficient operation of the District schools. The Operational Budget simply is not enough.

- **Educator Evaluation**

My Staff submitted updates on their goals and are completing mid-cycle reviews this month. Specifically, one of the major goals this year was focused on technology integration. In turn, principals and directors have been finalizing evaluations of instructional staff and meeting to review individual goals. This has been a year of incredible growth and I want to acknowledge the progress that has been made because of the efforts of our teachers and administrators. At the center of any effective culture of learning is a dynamic relationship between teacher and student that transforms all that happens in the organization. Our District is fortunate to have many dedicated instructors, administrators and support staff who care deeply about our students and are committed to creating success stories. So thank you for all that you do each and every day to inspire, encourage, push and pull our students toward their goals.

- **Meetings, Meetings...**

This past month has been heavily scheduled with multiple meetings-

- ✓ budget presentations and capital planning
- ✓ negotiations and administrative contract reviews
- ✓ staff meetings and program planning
- ✓ MARS regionalization info session and joint meetings
- ✓ roundtable discussions with teachers at Wire Village
- ✓ financial overseer teleconferences
- ✓ Committee meetings for Retention, Global Studies, and Innovation Lab
- ✓ Innovation Lab conferences
- ✓ Parent Forum re: B/ASP for next school year (last night)

But, most importantly, we are making progress on the planning and preparation for the Innovation Lab. Everyone is very excited about this advanced lab for the HS!

- **School Calendar** (*attachment*)

- Proposed School Calendar for 17-18 was included in your packet last month for your review. Tonight I am seeking SC approval of this so staff and parents can begin planning and course scheduling for next year. (*We do not yet know the Department of Ed dates for standardized testing next spring and so may need to revise the calendar once testing dates are published.*)

- **Summer Program and B/ASP**

Program Director Melissa Pervier, Comptroller Gary Suter and I met with parents about the B/ASP last night to discuss plans for next year. We have decided to run the after-school programs at both sites next year but will monitor enrollment to determine next steps for the before-school program.

Summer Program registration is open now and registration for the B/ASP will be open within the next couple of weeks. It's done on a first-come, first-serve basis....so register early!

- **Awards**

- On March 28th, it was my privilege to attend the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony at David Prouty HS. Congratulations to the sixteen new members for 2017: Emily Anderson, Jackie Bokis, Jayme Dowd, Michaela Duquette, Briana Fancy, Kaylee Gallagher, Christopher

Gleason, Mikayla Halloran, Alysia Joppas, Desiree Melvin, Alice Ordnung, Magdalen Paul, Isaiah Perez, Connor Scott, Evans Soter, Joseph Wilkman

- On April 4th, Principal York and I were honored to attend the Partners in Excellence Awards Dinner in Boston. At the awards ceremony, HS Environmental Science Teacher Mary McLaughlin was one of only 55 MA educators who received recognition for the outstanding achievement of her AP students. Congratulations to Mary and her students for a job well done and, for once again, showing ***Prouty Pride!***

- **Principal Reports:**

EBES - Principal Ron Tomlin-DC trip left this morning at 6:30! We hope they will learn a lot and enjoy the beautiful weather in DC.

Tonight's highlighted program: DPHS Principal Liz York

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy

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