



Spencer East Brookfield Regional School District

306 Main Street, Spencer, Massachusetts 01562

Telephone (508) 885-8500 * Fax (508) 885-8504

Email: crown@sebrsd.org * Web: www.sebrsd.org

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

Superintendent Report to School Committee

January 10, 2017

GRATITUDE

I'd like to thank staff, students, parents and the community for great events in December including teacher breakfasts, the police holiday party, Santa visits, musical performances, fundraisers, ugly sweater days, decorating, skits, giving trees, sports competitions, and team building activities. It really was a great month.

And tonight a very special thank you goes to Executive Director Joan Cusson of Goddard/Homestead Incorporated who has donated a 14-passenger Ford van to our district. Her organization purchased a new van and has graciously donated their old one to us. This is especially exciting given that our capital needs will probably prevent us from purchasing a brand new vehicle in the near future. I have spoken to Superintendent John LaFleche and made arrangements for the vehicle to be inspected by Baypath Regional Vocational-Technical HS automotive department and then repainted by their auto body shop. The van will be used for transporting small groups of students for sporting events, field trips and also for staff programs. We are hoping that it will serve our students and staff for at least a few years until such time as we can afford to purchase our own.

Mr. Suter will be requesting that the SC accept this donation later tonight.

TECHNOLOGY

IPad minis are being distributed to the elementary schools for grades K-2 and KT, WV, and EB each received 2 additional smartboards for instructional use.

Within the next 2 months, we anticipate rolling out School Dude and Aesop software. You will recall that School Dude assists in building utilization planning as well as maintenance records for each building and Aesop is an electronic record-keeping system for staff attendance and PD.

SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS & DELAYS

Now that we have returned from the holiday break, winter is upon us- ahhhhh yes, the unpredictable NE weather! As a reminder to staff, students and parents, please be aware that you will receive notification through the OneCall Now system. This system requires that we have accurate and up-to-date telephone contact info from everyone in order for it to work effectively. The announcements regarding a delay or closing will also be submitted to the 4 major news channels 4, 5, 7 and Fox as well as being posted on our website.

It is also important to note that we try very hard to avoid cancellation as any day missed now must be made up at the end of the school year, but parents and guardians should use judgment about whether it is safe for their individual child to walk to school or wait for a bus on any given day.

PERSONNEL

- Congratulations to EB Clerk Lynne Dobson on her retirement December 30th. She has worked for the District for 28 years having started her employment in October of 1988. We wish her the best as she finds the time to do the things she loves during her newly planned leisure time.
- After interviewing and vetting candidates, Mr. Suter and I are pleased to announce that we have hired a new Food Service Director.

First, Gary Suter and I would like to thank Cathy LaPrad for filling in as Director since September; her time, experience and effort were invaluable to us during this transition and we are grateful for the dedication (and patience!) she has shown for the past few months.

Ms. Michelle Babin of Worcester has accepted the position of Food Service Director for SEBRSD, started her duties on Monday January 3rd. She is a graduate of Johnson & Wales University where she majored in Culinary Nutrition. In addition to her culinary background and degree, she did postgraduate work at Meredith College in North Carolina where she completed a Dietetic Internship. Ms. Babin is a registered dietitian and a MA licensed dietitian nutritionist. She has experience in both hospital and school settings and has served in the roles of Patient Dietary Liaison, Dietitian, and School Nutrition Specialist. Most recently, she was Director of Food Services and Nutrition for the Sutton Public Schools where she worked for four years.

Ms. Babin will focus most of her work on the SEBRSD food services operations but will also make herself available as consultant to staff, students, parents and several programs within the school department. One of her first tasks will be to meet staff, tour facilities, and review records to determine efficiency levels, needs, and staffing. Her other responsibilities will include implementing/training the point of sales system, supervising the federally subsidized summer feeding program, and developing an informational program for the parents and general public.

So, please join us in welcoming Ms. Babin to the SEBRSD family!

NATIONAL REPORT

The Annual Quality Counts 2017 Report has just been released and Massachusetts has once again been ranked in first place on 3 of the 4 criteria. Massachusetts ranked first in K-12 achievement, first in overall grades and scores, and first in chance for success. Only one criteria, school finance, was ranked tenth.

BUDGET

Mr. Suter and I have been meeting with staff to discuss budget needs and last night we met with Spencer to kick-off the budget process. We are in the process of preparing a capital needs report and will also be meeting with both towns to discuss budget asks.

Relative to the funding needs of districts in Southern Worcester County, a task force has been established. On November 17th, the SC Chair, EB SC member Heather Messier, the Comptroller and I attended the Regional Budget Roundtable at Charlton MS. Area superintendents, SC members, and state legislators were present and

raised common issues such as unfunded mandates, special education costs, transportation, and health care costs. We discussed possible solutions, strategies for regionalizing services, cost sharing and working with our state legislators. The next meeting of the Task Force is this Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. at Shepherd Hill Regional High School. I encourage all Committee members to attend this very important meeting.

MEETINGS

Professional Development, Global Studies, Retention and Innovation Team meetings are scheduled for later this month. Staff members who have volunteered for these committees will be meeting to further study issues and find possible strategies and solutions for improving programs in the District.

Additionally, Mr. Suter and I will be hosting a Parent Forum on February 8th at Wire Village School. This is a follow-up event to parent meetings held previously and the purpose includes a *meet and greet* in order to share ideas, discuss the upcoming budget process, and announce a vision and plans for special programs and events. I encourage all parents to attend.

- B/ASP
- UMass College of Education event
- Summer Camp being developed
- Public Comment on Educator Evaluation

AWARDS

Congratulations are in order for 2 outstanding and accomplished individuals at David Prouty HS.

- Teacher Mary McLaughlin

HS environmental science teacher Mary McLaughlin has just been named by Mass Insight Education as a *Partners in Excellence* Teacher Award recipient for her exemplary work in the AP STEM Program. She is one of only 52 Massachusetts AP teachers who is being recognized for her outstanding contributions to student success during the 2015-2016 academic year. As an honoree, she will be presented with a plaque and \$750 check at the 5th annual **Partners in Excellence Award Celebration**, which will be held in the evening on April 4, 2017 in Boston.

- HS Senior Eric Fyrberg - Today Principal Elizabeth York and I had the privilege of attending the Worcester County Superintendents' Association Scholars Luncheon. Annually the Association holds this event to honor students in each district who have demonstrated outstanding character, academic growth and student leadership in learning. I am pleased to notify you that this year Eric Fyrberg was chosen for this award. Eric has proven himself to be a leader and learner both in and out of the classroom. With quiet determination and poise, he has excelled in his studies, in extracurricular activities and in serving his community. He exemplifies the best of Prouty.

Please join me in a round of applause to recognize Mary and Eric on these extraordinary achievements!!

As reported at the last SC meeting, Mass School Building Authority (MSBA) held a meeting on November 17th to speak with District representatives to determine next steps in the process either for renovation of the HS or to build new. (This was in response to me filing a statement of interest on behalf of the District the previous school year.) Board of Selectmen Chairs, SC Chair, Spencer Town Administrator, Business Comptroller, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, HS Principal and myself were invited to meet with them and, after some discussion, all those present took a tour of the facility.

We were informed that we would receive a response from MSBA in December.

On December 22nd, I received notification from MSBA that our district was not being invited into the MSBA's Eligibility Period at this time. We will now need to decide if we once again file a statement of interest for the upcoming year. Consideration for the Acceleration Repair Program deadline is February 17th and the deadline for the Core Program is April 7th.

STeAM EVENTS

A STEM Fest for Science Trailblazers is planned for March 11th to provide grade 5-8 students multiple opportunities to hear real scientists, mathematicians and engineers talk about why they chose their career path and then actively participate in a hands-on activity. The goal of the workshops is to show students that science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) can be fun!

Respectfully Submitted,

N. Tracy Crowe, Ed.D.