



## Spencer East Brookfield Regional School District

306 Main Street, Spencer, Massachusetts 01562

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

Email: [crowen@sebrsd.org](mailto:crowen@sebrsd.org) \* Web: [www.sebrsd.org](http://www.sebrsd.org)

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

### Superintendent Report to School Committee

March 8, 2016

#### ➤ Leadership Team – District Improvement Plan and Budget

The Leadership Team has met and prioritized budget requests over the past month and the SC has reviewed the preliminary budget. Budget requests are driven by the district and school improvement plans which in turn are driven by data-informed needs. The budget requests include what is needed to serve the district's students, to support staff, to bring this district out of Level 3 status, and to plan for the future needs of the community.

On Monday January 25<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Suter and I presented to the Boards of Selectmen from both Spencer and East Brookfield to outline our vision for the District, a strategic plan for improvements, and the 3-year District Improvement Plan.

The District Improvement Plan was approved by this Board on January 12<sup>th</sup> and I will be providing monthly updates starting this month. The Leadership Team has accomplished much in a short period of time and tonight I have a progress update which I would like to briefly review.

*(The updated District Improvement Plan is attached.)*

#### Technology Committee Update

The Technology Committee continues to develop a technology vision for the District and last week I met with student members who reviewed a student survey that will be distributed. Several other members of the Committee attended a demonstration of SMART Technologies that was held in the HS library on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The presentation showed the power of the newest technology that enhances student learning through the interactivity of the board.

The District continues to install WIFI access in all its facilities. East Brookfield's installation was completed during the February school vacation and Wire Village is scheduled for April vacation week. With Knox Trail's installation being done during this summer, Spencer-East Brookfield will then be WIFI-accessible in all District buildings. In addition to the WIFI projects, the following additions have been made or are in progress:

- 60 Chromebooks and 2 charging carts have been purchased for the elementary schools with plans to also purchase some for the HS next
- 4 HP Sprouts that are MakerSpace innovations including 3D scanning stages and design software
- 13 SMARTboards are being installed at Wire Village (these were the boards previously used at Lake St)
- New SMARTboards and PD will be offered to teachers in all levels so that classrooms will be equipped with 21<sup>st</sup> century technology for teaching and learning.

In late spring, we hope to hold Open Houses so that the community can see all the advances that we are making for student learning through such innovations.

➤ **Safety and Security**

In January Spencer Fire Chief Parsons and Lt. Beford of the Spencer Police met with me for the purpose of reviewing evacuation and relocation plans and ALICE training. Lt. Beford thought there was a trained officer so the Police agreed to take the lead on looking into crisis response ALICE training for the District. Recently however, Lt. Beford informed me that no one on the force was ALICE-trained so the District will be looking into getting a staff member trained to coordinate ALICE training.

➤ **Drug Awareness Coalition & The Chris Herren Project**

As a reminder, I want to mention the important date of May 9<sup>th</sup> when North Brookfield Public Schools will host speaker Chris Herren of the Herren Project. As we are all aware, the opiate epidemic is critical and many agencies are trying to address addiction issues and save lives. Schools are taking a proactive approach by having anti-substance abuse programs such as Chris Herren's to provides speakers, initiatives and events to empower youth to stand up to substance abuse, promote positive decision making and encourage teens to make a difference in their community.

The Herren Project is designed to educate youth and at-risk populations on the importance of a healthy lifestyle, good decision making and how to handle life's pressure. Chris Herren is an engaging and compelling speaker who, through his own story of addiction, inspires students to have conviction about healthy living and the influence they can have on the world. There will be 3 school districts participating- North Brookfield, Baypath and Spencer-East Brookfield. I'd like to thank North Brookfield Superintendent Marilyn Tcenza for inviting our school community to attend.

So - please save the date May 9 for this important event.

➤ **Senior Activity Dates**

The dates for senior events have been proposed as follows:

**Important Dates:** \*Be aware some of these dates may be subject to change.

May 12<sup>th</sup> – Senior Dinner Dance at Leicester Country Club.

May 13<sup>th</sup> – Seniors Last Day of Class

May 17<sup>th</sup> – Senior Banquet

May 18<sup>th</sup> – Senior Cookout\*

May 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> - Senior Finals

May 20<sup>th</sup> – Make Up day for Finals

June 1<sup>st</sup> – Honor Banquet

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Class Day

June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Graduation (at Prouty)

Senior Class Trip - TBD

➤ **SWCEC**

On Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> I attended the monthly meeting of the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative to review their annual budget requests for FY 17. I will be reporting back to the SC as soon as their budget is finalized.

➤ **In Memory of John Waage**

We were all saddened to learn of the passing of music teacher John Waage who lost his courageous battle with cancer on February 24<sup>th</sup>. John was a dedicated and highly respected member of the HS faculty, a devoted band director, and a true friend; his incredible impact on the community is obvious. A huge outpouring of support was visible on Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup> during calling hours in Brookfield. Memorial contributions may be made to:

*John Waage Memorial Scholarship Fund  
c/o David Prouty High School  
302 Main Street  
Spencer, MA 01562*

He will be greatly missed and students hope to pay tribute to his memory by creating a mural in the music wing of the HS. The rough sketch of the planned mural was drawn by student Aloria Cappalletti.

