



# Spencer East Brookfield Regional School District

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

## Superintendent Report to School Committee

September 13, 2016

### Gratitude

This summer numerous staff and volunteers helped to prepare the schools for our opening day. Thanks is due to:

- custodians and the Tech Department for their extraordinary efforts to get all District projects completed and all buildings ready for staff and students
- staff, parent, and community volunteers for cleaning up the HS field on August 20<sup>th</sup> in preparation for the fall athletic season
- Knox Trail parents who painted four squares, and repaired or replaced basketball hoops
- Wire Village volunteers who prepared the field and installed a scoreboard
- East Brookfield Elementary for hosting the summertime trainings and a special thank you to Mr. Tomlin for helping to order, sort and distribute new curriculum materials to schools during the summer months.
- everyone in the community who helped to make Spencer Cable Access' "Feeding Our Neighbors" event combined with Prouty's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration a success

### Summer Learning

Since the last SC meeting, August was still very busy with multiple SMARTboard trainings, school orientations, a Data Team Institute, Administrative Retreats, New Teacher Orientation, and Convocation which included 2 full professional development days for staff. The professional development training included various components:

On August 29<sup>th</sup> the morning started at 8 a.m. with coffee, fruit and pastry, and time for staff to share their summer activities and adventures. After my opening remarks, I introduced the Leadership Team and then announced the longevity awards for service to the District. Collectively, the 28 recipients of these awards have dedicated over 380 years of service to our students!! (*Attachment #1 yellow paper*)

After the service awards, PPS Director Carla Chioda conducted training for Civil Rights, Confidentiality, Restraint, Mandated Reporting, 504 Plans and Special Education.

Following a short break, ALICE training was provided to the staff. ALICE, the #1 active shooter civilian response training, stands for **Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate**. The training was delivered by one of our 3 District trainers- HS Principal Elizabeth York. After the overview of this emergency response protocol, Spencer Police Chief David Darrin spoke on behalf of his department and noted that this was an improved and effective system that requires both the schools and police to change how they respond. There was a question and answer session that followed the presentation and then there was a special announcement about a new annual event called "STAFF

SHOWDOWN.” EB Principal Ron Tomlin and teachers Chrissy Lavin and Meaghan Pope challenged all District staff to participate on September 15<sup>th</sup> in a mini-golf, bowling and trivia competition!  
*(Attachment #2 blue paper)*

On Wednesday August 31<sup>st</sup> we welcomed back our returning students to launch the District into the 2016-2017 school year. Staff and students commented on the building improvements and were excited to see so many new curriculum resources. The 5-year District Improvement Plan has been moving along and tonight I’d like to share an update of our progress.

### **District Improvement Plan Update**

SEBRSD’s SC approved District Improvement Plan states the five major areas of our Theory of Action  
*We will improve student learning and teaching quality, and thereby narrow the achievement gap for all students if we ensure that all students have access to:*

1. *safe, clean learning environments*
2. *horizontally and vertically aligned curriculum*
3. *high-quality data-informed instruction*
4. *internal and external systems that support district initiatives*
5. *rich learning resources and tools*

➤ *safe, clean learning environments*

To address safe, clean learning environments we have accomplished the following:

- Bose speaker system has been installed on the HS upper field...special thanks to the feisty crew who did the installation late at night in darkness!
- Entry way logo mats are in and security systems have been upgraded in each building
- new exterior doors and new wall padding in the HS gym
- Mr. Karlstad is currently in discussion with staff at Baypath Reg’l Voc-Tech to construct an equipment shed and repair the entry/handicap access to Blue House
- Districtwide training was conducted for ALICE on August 29

➤ *horizontally and vertically aligned curriculum*

We have ensured that improvements are being made that will assist in providing horizontally and vertically aligned curriculum. Materials have arrived and been distributed to schools across the District for consistent implementation of EngageNY, Empowering Writers and a new K-8 Pearson science series. Professional development for Empowering Writers will take place on the two in-service half days in October.

➤ *high-quality data-informed instruction*

Now that 3 of the 4 schools have trained at Data Team Institute in August, these teams will now meet regularly during the year to assess assessment data and share the knowledge with colleagues in their respective buildings.

➤ *internal and external systems that support district initiatives*

**Technology** improvements included the hiring of a Technology Integration Specialist, new and upgraded servers, software to increase our efficiency and accuracy of record-keeping, increased custodial staffing to ensure the maintenance of clean buildings and improvements made.

**Professional development** will be a focal point for staff this year. Over 60 staff members completed SMARTboard training during the summer. By the end of this week, all schools will have conducted a PD survey to determine needs. In October, the PD Committee will meet to review the surveys and plan additional PD opportunities for the year. In the meantime, we are arranging for additional SMARTboard training sessions due to the high demand.

Teachers21 consultants will conduct trainings this year around the theme of “Growth Mindset and Student Engagement.” The two elementary schools will meet together with a facilitator and the MS and HS will meet separately with another trainer. The plan calls for meetings of these groups on the half days in November, December, and February.

The **School Building Needs Committee** will continue to meet to determine capital needs for our buildings and equipment.

➤ *rich learning resources and tools*

The HS received new textbooks and District-wide \$125,000 was spent on additional resources. KT received \$12,000 worth of additional mimeos and document cameras for classroom use. New benches for sports teams have been assembled.

Building staff are extremely positive about the infusion of technology resources and the additional professional development opportunities being offered.

The District invested in the future of our students and their STEaM studies by purchasing over \$450,000 of SMARTboards, chromebooks, computers, iPads, iPad minis, GoPro cameras, MakerSpace Sprouts with 3D printers, and robots and drones. It was gratifying to see teachers and students using the new technology on day one of the year!

*We have made a great deal of progress but will continue to find ways to maintain the improvements and funding to increase our capacity to provide an excellent education*



**Reminder- Town Hall Forum on Opioid Crisis**

Chief Darrin, HS Principal Elizabeth York and I will host a public event on Wednesday September 14 for addressing this critical issue by hosting a town hall public event at the HS. The forum includes the District Attorney's Office, local ambulance, fire, police, a local judge, community resources and the Sheriff's Office.

We hope to see everyone there. This epidemic is impacting our families, our schools and our towns and we must work together as a community to address the problem. *(Attachment #3 pink paper)*

**District Attorney's Safe Schools Summit**

On September 29<sup>th</sup> I will attend an event hosted by DA Joe Early at Worcester Technical HS. The topics that will be covered will be commercial sexual exploitation of children and understanding victims, gang recruitment and trends, and coping skills for a hyper-connected world. The training will include how to identify victims, establishing safety paths, gang involvement, and how technology has created a feeling of "Alone Together." Why are we expecting more and more interaction from technology and less and less from family, friends and others. *(Last attachment #4 white paper)*

In closing tonight's report, I'd like to let you know that I visited all schools during the first week and was very proud and impressed with the enthusiasm of the students and teachers about the new technology and coming year. It appears that SEBRSD is poised for a great year of teaching, learning, growth, engagement and leading.

Last week we welcomed the new kindergarten Class of 2029 and this year we proudly celebrate 50 years of Prouty HS. We will continue to make improvements to our facilities, to improve professional development opportunities, to advocate for our students, and to pursue work on our strategic plan. By taking these steps, we will build community confidence in our schools and provide educational opportunities for the students of Spencer-East Brookfield that will prepare them for college and careers.



Respectfully Submitted,

N. Tracy Crowe, Ed.D.

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