



GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

195 Federal Street, Suite 100, Greenfield, MA 01301

Ph: 413-772-1326 / Fax: 413-772-1379

The Greenfield Public School District is a place where every child is supported on their path to success.

To: Amy Proietti, Chair

From: Christine DeBarge, Ed.D

Date: December 13, 2023

RE: Superintendent Update

1. Budget

We have begun the FY25 budget process. All building administrators and relevant department heads have reached out to have staff make supply, material and other requests for the FY25 budget. Andy, Karin and I have budget meetings scheduled with all administrators during January.

In following the City timelines for the budget process, I suggest we hold the FY25 budget hearing on February 28, 2024.

The City timeline requires that the Mayor receive the School Committee budget by March 11, 2024. Working backwards, this means the Committee must vote by March 8. Holding the Public Hearing February 28 would allow an additional week for a second meeting if needed prior to the final date for a vote.

The Public Hearing must be posted 21 days prior to the meeting date so we would need to have the budget summary to the Greenfield Recorder by February 2, 2024.

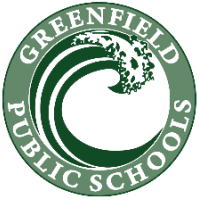
2. Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award for Academic Excellence

I was very pleased to present Greenfield High School Senior, Maree-Ellis Benitez with the Greenfield Superintendent's Award. Ellis, her parents and I attended the Franklin County Superintendent's Dinner on December 7th at the Franklin County Technical School. The School Committee received a copy of the nomination letter I received from Greenfield High School that summarized many of her accomplishments. Ellis is currently ranked first in our senior class of 82 students with a GPA of 4.46. It was a wonderful event and the students at FCTS did a wonderful job preparing and serving the dinner that evening.

3. Staffing

I am sad to share that Jake Waldsmith will be leaving the district in January to pursue a rigorous academic program. Jake has been a valuable member of the district staff and administrative team and we wish him all the best.

The Greenfield Public Schools is committed to maintaining a discrimination-free environment for all students, families, and employees. Greenfield Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

195 Federal Street, Suite 100, Greenfield, MA 01301

Ph: 413-772-1326 / Fax: 413-772-1379

The Greenfield Public School District is a place where every child is supported on their path to success.

I have posted the position but we have no applicants at this time.

I have posted the float custodian position that had been removed from the FY24 budget. This is due to the cost of overtime we have identified to this point as compared to the last fiscal year. This is due in part to positions that we unfilled for long periods of time including a position that is currently vacant. We are also addressing a variety of personnel related issues that have resulted in overtime being needed. The reposting of this position will be more cost effective, if it can be filled, than continuing to pay overtime at the rate we project for the rest of the fiscal year.

In addition, I am posting a part time HR/Personnel clerk position to assist both the Superintendent's office and the payroll department. This position would be in place to address much of the workers compensation, Family Medical Leave and other such types of HR needs. I have been informed that this position existed prior to the pandemic but had been removed from the budget in a year when the schools received a very low allocation.

This position is needed to address a series of challenges that are impacting the effective processing of HR and payroll along with trying to update our MUNIS program to more appropriately address our needs.

Finally, we continue to address staffing vacancies, primarily Instructional Assistants. We have again been working with a staffing agency to provide another source for qualified applicants.

I would like to express my appreciation for Susan Eckstrom, Jean Wall and Mayor Wedegartner for their time on the School Committee. It has been a pleasure to work with you and I wish you the best.

Thank you