



GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

195 Federal Street, Suite 100, Greenfield, MA 01301

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

To: Glenn Johnson-Mussad, Chair

From: Christine DeBarge, Ed.D

Date: January 9, 2024

RE: Superintendent Update

1. Budget

We have begun the FY25 budget process. Budget meetings have been scheduled with department and building administrators in the next two weeks. We have begun a review of staffing in addition.

The Technology Survey that had been previously conducted with all district staff will be used in budget discussion with John Grimaldi, our IT Director. This will be reflected in the Superintendent's Budget as a way to begin the process of refreshing our most used and requested hardware.

2. Staffing

I am sad to share that Merrill Miceli, Director of Early Childhood has given her resignation. I will be moving forward with steps to fill the position. I greatly appreciate the work that Merrill has done at AEL and we wish her well in her future endeavors.

Joanne Wallace has joined our business office in the Accounting Assistant position. Some of you may recall that Joanne worked in the Superintendent's Office prior to my tenure as superintendent. We are pleased to have her back with us.

3. District Building Visit

Please find attached the schedule for School Committee and City Council members to visit our schools. The staff will be in professional development for a full day in various buildings. Any member who intends to participate is asked to please email me and Lauren so we can plan for the group size.

4. Weather Related Decisions

It's the time of year again when weather can impact the school schedule. The decision to modify the school schedule for weather or other safety issues rests with the

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Superintendent. There are a number of factors that are considered when I make the decision and I consult with other professionals, including a meteorologist, the Director of the DPW, representatives of the bus company and possibly other area superintendents. In every case, the number one priority is the safety of students and staff.

The regular structure of school schedules is impacted when school is closed or delayed. Administrators consider many factors when considering any modifications to their building's schedule and make the best decision possible given the factors and resources known and available at that time.

I have shared in the past and continue to respect that not everyone will agree with decisions I make regarding delays, early dismissals and closures. Should any parent or guardian not agree with my decision to keep school open or delay rather than close, they have the ability to make the decision they feel is best for their child. We only ask that they contact the school so we know the student will be absent.

5. Music Program Summary

I was asked to provide a summary of our current music program.

The elementary schools offer general music instruction to all students grades K - 4. Our elementary music teachers are also going to be integrating singing into the instruction as that is included in the new music standards. As the Committee knows, we also support the Strings for Kids program which provides additional instrumental instruction for students.

At the middle school levels, we offer instrument lessons as well as band. This level of music instruction is consistent with what has been offered for a number of years.

Finally, at GHS we offer band for our students, including those in grade 8. I have shared previously that our current situation of a split music teacher was the result of a music teacher changing teaching positions at GMS and low enrollment in music electives at GHS. The outcome was to combine the two buildings into one staff schedule.

. Thank you

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Greenfield Public Schools
Tour Schedule
January 26, 2024

Time	Building
11:45 am	Newton School
12:15 pm	Federal Street Elementary
12:45 pm	Greenfield Middle School *park across the street in old Bank of America Building
1:30 pm	Greenfield High School *park in the front parking lot and enter building through front doors (not Event Entrance)
2:15 pm	Discovery School at Four Corners
2:45 pm	Academy of Early Learning