

GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

195 Federal Street, Suite 100, Greenfield, MA 01301

Ph: 413-772-1312 / Fax: 413-772-1379

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: February 14, 2024

RE: Superintendent Update

1. Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching Award

I am so pleased to share that Jessica Carriveau has been named the Greenfield winner for the Excellence in Teaching Award through the Grinspoon Foundation. Jessica has been with the district for 14 years and is a Grade 7 math teacher at Greenfield Middle School. Jessica will be honored at a dinner at the Log Cabin in Holyoke. Karin and I, along with Michelle Fenimore and Jessica's family will be able to attend to celebrate with her. Please join us in congratulating her on this honor!

2. Budget

The Superintendent's Budget has been posted as required along with information regarding the Public Hearing. The budget hearing is scheduled for February 28, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Jon Zon Center. I believe that the Superintendent's Budget represents the priorities in the Strategic Plan as well as seeks to preserve our staffing overall. Anyone who is interested in reviewing the budget can find it posted on the district website or can request a hard copy from my office at 195 Federal Street or by calling Lauren Rice at 413-772-1326.

3. Staffing

Last month I shared that Merrill Miceli, our Director of Early Childhood was leaving us with her last day on Friday February 16, 2024. We wish her the best of luck with her academic studies and her future endeavors. I am very pleased to share that Jill Taglia has been appointed as the Interim Director of Early Childhood. Jill is currently a special education teacher at AEL but has over 20 years experience as a special educator as well as 3 years of experience as a building principal in another state. We welcome Jill to the administrative team and are looking forward to her working in the district in this new role.

Derek Morrison, principal of Greenfield High School has also shared that he will be serving the remainder of his contract with us and then moving on from his current position. I would like to thank Derek for the work he has done on behalf of the students

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and staff at GHS. I will make an announcement when next steps for replacing Derek as the principal of GHS are determined.

We continue to need Instructional Assistants across the district as well as substitute teachers and IAs. If anyone is interested, please check www.Schoolspring.com, check the "Employment" link on the front page of our website or contact the Superintendent's office if you need assistance locating where the current positions are located.

4. Weather Related Decisions

While I included this information in my last report to the School Committee, I am including it again due to the often challenging circumstances related to weather, especially during February and March.

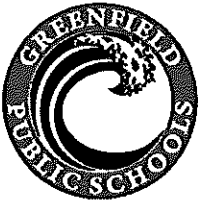
The decision to modify the school schedule for weather or other safety issues rests with the Superintendent. There are a number of factors that are considered when I make the decision and I consult with other professionals, including a meteorologist, the Director of the DPW, representatives of the bus 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. Karin Patenaude and I were able to attend "Building a Stronger Commonwealth: one person at a time", the Franklin County Legislative Breakfast on January 18, 2024. The event was hosted at the Greenfield Public Library and Rep. Natalie Blais and Rep. Susannah Whipps were in attendance along with Elena Cohen from the office of Sen. Comerford. The speakers provided a substantial amount of information regarding proposed legislative and budgetary proposals to support the state and school library systems. We were pleased to be able to attend this informative event.

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6. Registration

The registration period for the Academy of Early Learning has opened. Anyone interested in submitting an application for our integrated preschool program should contact AEL at 413-772-1390. Spaces are limited in our program. AEL is an integrated program that serves the needs of students ages 3- 5 with disabilities as well as providing a preschool program for students without disabilities.

Registration for kindergarten is beginning in March. Information about registration is available on the district website. If you know anyone who has a child who will be age 5 on or before September 1, 2024, please share this information with them!

. Thank you

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