



March 9, 2022

## CONGRATULATIONS

Please join me in congratulating Assistant Superintendent Karin Patenaude for having been nominated for the "Administrator of the Year Award" by the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils. Angela Mass, Student Council Advisor and Haley Campbell, Greenfield High School Student Council President.

Greenfield Public Schools is extremely pleased to have Karin with us as Assistant Superintendent!!

## PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration began on March 3, 2022. An ad ran in the Register, the information is posted on our website and will be included on media sites with the City as well. Registration has been slow so please consider making an appointment for your kindergarten aged student as soon as possible. Having enrollment numbers early helps us make decisions about staffing and also, decisions about intraschool choice will not be made until we have a better idea of our enrollments. Please refer anyone you know who has a child eligible for kindergarten to reach out to our Registrar, Sierra Rother at [sierot1@gpsk12.org](mailto:sierot1@gpsk12.org).

A kindergarten screening date is scheduled for April 15. It is extremely important that all families with kindergarten eligible register before the screening date.

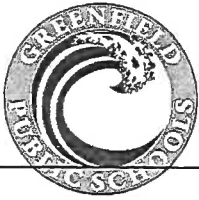
Preschool Open House was held February 15, 2022. We welcomed a number of families and have started registration. Anyone looking to register at the Academy of Early Learning can contact AEL or our registrar.

## ONGOING WORK

Each of you has been provided with a copy of the book "Teaching to Strengths. Supporting Students Living with Trauma, Violence and Chronic Stress". Copies of the book have been provided to all staff at this point and we wanted to ensure all of you had a copy of the book as well.

We have the proposal from NESDEC for the Best Use of Educational Facilities for review. I will have the enrollment projections for the Committee at the April meeting as they were recently received and I have not had the opportunity to review them or to have the administrators review for any needed clarification or questions.

We have shifted to a mask optional format in Greenfield. At this time, teachers are being asked to keep some desks or seating in their classrooms that would allow spacing for students who choose to maintain added space. We are transitioning back to our typical cafeteria setups but we will maintain some seating for students who wish to have additional space for meals. The district continues with the current



cleaning and disinfecting procedures and will continue to have hand sanitizer and disposable masks available for those who wish to use them. The bubblers will remain covered as we feel that use of water bottle filling stations or water bottles is more sanitary in general. The project to add water bottle filling stations is still part of the district's plan. I will continue to report positive cases in the aggregate at this time.

## **FY23 BUDGET**

The Budget Hearing is scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the Greenfield High School cafeteria. Copies of the Superintendent's budget are posted on the district website or a copy can be requested from the Superintendent's Office. As the Committee knows, the budget is ever-changing based on a variety of factors but we will continue to monitor changes even as we build the FY23 budget. After the Hearing, I will include a copy of my presentation on the website as well.

## **STAFFING**

I am pleased to share that Dr. Laura Davis has joined GMS as our new Interim Associate Principal. Please join me in welcoming her to the district.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

We have added the new process for volunteers to the website; however, we have not been looking to utilize volunteers while COVID numbers were elevated. Now that numbers are decreasing, we are happy to have people sign up to volunteer. A reminder from a previous report, there are some restrictions regarding how we can use volunteers, including the fact that a volunteer cannot be the only adult providing supervision at any given time. We also need to be mindful about student confidentiality. All of our schools are looking for volunteers to assist at lunch and recess (except for GHS). In addition, GMS is interested in volunteers to help at the Second Chance Breakfast and GHS is interested in volunteers for the library. Anyone interested in volunteering will need to complete a background check. Please contact Lauren Rice at the Superintendent's office regarding the process to become a volunteer.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Christine DeBarge, Ed.D  
Superintendent