



March 8, 2023

Good evening,

Please find some updates from the district.

## **CELEBRATIONS**

I had the pleasure of meeting with Kelly Halpin at Federal Street School to review interim student performance data. This data was reviewed as part of their student data review process and professional development. I have attached Kelly's summary to this report.

I am extremely pleased with the work our staff is doing to support student learning and our students are doing a great job!

## **STAFFING**

We are pleased to share that we have hired two new administrators for the district.

John Grimaldi has joined us as our new Director of Technology. John has worked in both a local school district and corporate technology in his 25 year career in information technology. We are looking forward to picking up the work of evaluating our technology needs and planning for addressing our needs.

We are also pleased to welcome Merrill Miceli as our new Director of Early Childhood. Merrill will join us after April break and will have a transition period with Nancy Putnam. This will allow additional coverage and help to build our class lists for next year with Merrill. She has been an early childhood teacher, a teacher internationally and is now an early childhood administrator.

We are thrilled to have both of them join Greenfield Public Schools

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Focus groups have been scheduled for those staff and community members who indicated their willingness to participate. A focus group for administrators and some for students have also been scheduled. The date, time and location is being communicated to these folks by Dr. Houle, who is facilitating the Strategic Planning work.

## **BUDGET**

The FY 24 Superintendent's Budget is being presented to the School Committee on Friday, March 10 at 11:30 am via Zoom. The budget is available online on the front page of the website and in the materials for Fridays meeting. The budget documents on the front page of the website will be updated as the budget moves through the process.

This morning I participated in a Superintendents' meeting with the Massachusetts Taxpayers Association, who provided a summary of the Governor's Proposed FY24 Budget and some of the elements relevant to education.



Here are some points for information as shared by the Massachusetts Taxpayers Association:

- There was an agreement for no surtax to be used in FY23
- There was an agreement to cap its use to \$1 Billion in FY24 with any additional revenue to be available for one-time or capital
- Of the \$1 Billion, 51% is allocated for education with 1% of that used for K – 12 education. The 1% equates to approximately \$10 million
- The Governor's budget reflects the largest ever year over year increase in Chapter 70 funding – a 9.8% increase
  - 56% of this increase is allocated to 23 high need districts
- The Student Opportunity Act (SOA) minimum per pupil funding is \$30/student as it was last year prior to the Legislature increasing to \$60/student
- Circuit Breaker is funded at 75% with out of district transportation claims funded at 100%
- The Governor's budget includes increased funds for extraordinary relief
- Funding of school meals may be addressed in a supplemental budget
- Statewide enrollment saw the first increase since FY20 but only approximately 1400 students statewide
  - The largest loss in enrollment has been elementary
- The expected timeline would have the budget in Conference Committee in June with an expected signing by the Governor in July

Again, these points were presented by the Mass Taxpayers Association but are consistent with the presentation the same organization gave to Superintendents in February.

Sincerely,

Christine DeBarge, Ed.D  
Superintendent

## FSS Positive Data Outcomes

2/15/2023

### Kindergarten

- 94% of kindergartens are in yellow or above for the universal math screener.
- 9 students scored a 0 in PSF in the fall but no kids scored a 0 in PSF in the Winter.
- 3 Students went from red to blue in phoneme segmentation!!
- 88% of students increased PSF performance from Fall to Winter.
- In the fall 68% of Kindergarten students scored green & yellow on the Universal number screener. It went up to 87% in the winter.
- 9 out of 14 students made progress from Fall to Winter in Letter Naming Fluency

### First Grade

- All students were yellow or above in PSF for winter benchmark
- 4 out of 19 students exceeded the benchmark according to their composite scores.
- 13 out of 19 students were D.C or 0 on accuracy score in the fall. In the winter 1 out of 19 were at 0.

### Second Grade

- 60% are at average percentile or higher (MAPS Test)
- 50% of students were in the red for nonsense words in the Fall. In the winter only 19% were in the red.
- 97% of students are in yellow or above for the universal math screener.
- 6 children have exceeded benchmark across the board.

### Third Grade

- 17% of kids scored 80th percentile or above for measurement and data.
- 13 out of 18 students increased ORF% accuracy. All students that started at benchmark stayed at benchmark
- 5 out of 18 (28%) students made benchmark in the fall (reading accuracy), in the winter, 44% made benchmark

### Fourth Grade

- 59% of students made benchmark in the fall, in the winter 91% of students made benchmark for reading accuracy
- In one class all students gained at least 10 words, most gained 20+ words.
- 3 students moved from green to blue (dibels)
- In one class 64% of students were at benchmark
- In one class ORF, all students were 95% or greater
- 71% scored average and above for measurement and data.