



GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

195 Federal Street, Suite 100, Greenfield, MA 01301

“Every Child’s Success is Our Mission”

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

To: Dr. Christine DeBarge, Superintendent

From: Karin E. Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Date: May 11, 2022

RE: Assistant Superintendent Update

1. **Curriculum Updates:**

ELA Curriculum K-7:

The field testing of CKLA/Amplify wrapped up on Friday, April 29. The second field test with ARC Core began this week with two professional development sessions with a launch in classrooms on Monday, May 9. ELA coaches will continue to collect and synthesize data from teacher and student rubrics daily on this new curriculum program. This data reflects the district’s priorities of HQIM curriculum materials set by the team and the feedback will be used by the district to determine next steps.

The district continues to encourage families to visit the DESE website which has family guides for all grades Pre-K through 12th grade. These family guides outline what students should know and be able to do by the end of each grade level. The guides (available in multiple languages) can be found at the following link:

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/highstandards/default.html>

Math Curriculum K-4:

The elementary math coaches and interventionists continue to meet with Ian Stith, DESE Math Content Support Lead, and have been working on all end of module assessments from the Eureka math program. This collaboration is a deep-dive into the assessments embedded in the program and how they can be revised to increase time on learning and lessen time on administering assessments.

ESI - Pre-K/K Screening

The district adopted the ESI-3 Screening tool for all pre-k and kindergarten students and implementation of this screening began April 15. By universally aligning the district’s screening process, the analysis of the screening data will assist administrators and teachers in determining classroom placements for students.

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2. Professional Development

As the district has engaged in the HQIM PLN with DESE, a pedagogical shift of how one teaches literacy in grades K-4 is one of the most fundamental differences in instruction that is going to occur in the coming years. With the anticipation of that, the district will be providing a ½ day PD for all teachers grades K-4 on the science of reading. These grade level workshops will focus on evidence-based literacy /science of reading podcasts where grade-level teams will listen, watch and discuss together.

3. Grants

Title I: Title I funding will continue to support family engagement nights. Be on the lookout for “Math Night” at Newton Elementary School coming up in May.

FC719: The district was approved for up to \$200,000.00 to support the purchase of high-quality instructional materials for ELA in Grades K-7 for the 2022-23 school year. Once the two field tests are complete, and the district decides on the curriculum program we will launch in the 2022-23 school year, we will put forth the order.

Accelerated Math Grant: The district has been approved for up to \$100,000.00 to support the purchase of high-quality instructional materials for math in Grades K-7 for the 2022-23 school year. The district is working with each math curriculum program vendor and DESE to submit quotes and utilize these funds for the purchase of all math materials for the 2022-23 school year.

Civics Grant: The district currently applied for up to \$20,000 to continue the support of Civics Education in grades 8-12 along with supporting real-world experiences in engaging in civics projects. The grant will also support history teachers grades 8-12 in developing additional elective courses that provide further civic engagement for all of our students.

4. Newton Principal Search

The advisory committee finished its first round of interviews with six highly-qualified candidates and put forth their recommendations to Dr. DeBarge for second round interviews. I want to thank the committee for all of its hard work and involvement in this important process.

5. Library Assessments

The district will move on to Federal Street School’s library next week. Laura Luker and Deb Kern will begin the weeding process at this library and assess the needs once all of the weeding is complete. We are excited that Newton is finished and that we are able to move on to the next elementary school in need.

Thank you,

Karin E. Patenaude, Assistant Superintendent

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May 11, 2022

CELEBRATIONS and UPCOMING EVENTS

The Greenfield Schools' Film Fest and Arts Night will return on May 20th at 6 pm. More information can be found on the district's website.

Dr. Russell Johnston, Deputy Commissioner from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education along with several of his colleagues visited Greenfield High School and the Academy of Early Learning last week. We were able to visit classrooms in both buildings and observe the wonderful teaching and learning. Staff and students were welcoming of visitors into the classrooms and their hospitality were greatly appreciated.

The Food Service Department has been awarded a total of \$17,300 in grant funding from DESE and Project Bread to promote their upcoming Summer Eats program. Grant funds will be used to purchase exciting weekly raffle prizes, equipment such as brand new XL Vitamix Blenders for smoothies, and advertisements to spread the word about the program. Stay tuned for more information about Summer Eats, coming soon!

The Greenfield Fire Department is providing Fire Safety lessons across our schools and our goal is to have them at every school before June 16. We are very excited to get this important information back into our schools and reestablishing the collaboration with the GFD.

We had our lock down drills during the week of May 2. All of our staff and students did an outstanding job, especially considering the number of new staff and the amount of time since our last drill of this type. I'd like to thank Trooper Carmichael with the Massachusetts State Police, his colleagues and Officer Laura Gordon of the Greenfield Police Department for their work with us for these drills.

NESDEC STUDY

The NESDEC Best Use of Educational Facilities study has begun. Building and district level administrators are completing documents for the NESDEC staff and virtual tours of the buildings have been completed. Karin Patenaude, Eric Hevy and I visited the buildings with NESDEC representatives to review some of the spaces in person. This included all currently used schools and Green River. They are still on schedule to present their findings and options for the School Committee's consideration at the June meeting. We are also planning community and staff opportunities for input regarding the findings and options so please stay tuned for more information.

COVID UPDATE

There is an increase in COVID cases, not just in the Greenfield Public Schools but also in the community, the Commonwealth and the Northeast. This past week we have seen our first pocket of significant, school based spread. I have been collaborating with Meg Tudryn and Jennifer Hoffman



from the Greenfield Health Department as well as with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding recommendations and next steps.

We have communicated the need for mask wearing in classrooms where all staff and students were identified as close contacts. We will have windows open to increase ventilation, we continue to have separate desks for students who prefer to work in individual work space and also have desks for cafeteria for students who prefer not to eat at round tables with peers. We have a significant number of staff and students who elect to wear masks daily or at times when they have been exposed outside of school. Everyone is welcome to continue to wear masks and we continue to have them available throughout the schools. The Greenfield Schools also continue to pool test and do symptomatic testing. We will continue to follow recommendations as this school year progresses.

FY23 BUDGET

The School Committee budget was passed by Ways and Means. At this time, the Mayor's budget has reduced the School Committee budget by \$274,133 or 1.38%. However, the increase is still at a 6.34%.

At this time, the year-end closing procedures are picking up. We continue to review all open purchase orders on a regular basis and continue to release funds we do not anticipate expending. I have asked administrators to continue being mindful of purchases at this time of year and to prioritize anything they are submitting.

Mr. Paquette can provide additional information about the FY22 budget and end-of-year close out.

STAFFING

The second round of interviews is being scheduled for principal of Newton School. I'd like to thank Karin Patenaude for facilitating the first round of interviews and to thank the staff and parents who gave their time to participate in this process.

We also are beginning the interview process for Director of Technology. Karin Patenaude, Mike Svinis and Fernando Fleury will join me for the interviews. The goal is to have someone appointed prior to July 1.

Michael Browning has accepted the offer for the permanent principal at Discovery School. We are very pleased to have him officially onboard in that capacity.

We continue to struggle with staffing all of our open positions across all buildings and positions. This struggle is not unique to Greenfield and Superintendents regularly share staffing challenges across the region.

We have advertised in a variety of resources, engaged in a DESE sponsored "blast" of positions earlier in the year, and made phone calls to prior applicants. In an effort to hopefully increase our applicant pool, we are posting all known or anticipated positions for the School Year 2022-2023. Our desire is to fill as many positions early in the summer as possible.



Superintendent's Report
Greenfield School Committee Meeting

The number of positions open and the potential for continued turnover in staff makes it very challenging to finalize information for the next school year.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Christine DeBarge, Ed.D
Superintendent

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Date of request: 5/10/22

FIELD TRIP REQUEST

This request needs to be completed and submitted to the principal three weeks in advance. Attach the list of students to be included.

School: GHS Class: SENIOR # of Students 71
Date of Field Trip: 5/31/22 Destination: HIGH MEADOW Distance: 56 MILES
GRANBY, CT 1 HR 8 MINS
Departure: 800 a.m./p.m. Arrival: 900 a.m./p.m. Return: 300 a.m./p.m. Arrival: 400 a.m./p.m.

Classes missed and provision for work: SENIORS HAVE COMPLETED FINALS BEFORE TRIP - TEACHERS WHO CHAPERONE WILL LEAVE WORK
Purpose & how this relates to school program:

SENIOR CLASS TRIP

Adults who will chaperone, for # 71 students (anticipated)

- 1. ERIN DEGEN TEACHER CORI? Yes No
2. ANNA HARTMAN TEACHER CORI? Yes No
3. NANCY GIFFORD IA TEACHER CORI? Yes No
4. ERICH LEADER TEACHER CORI? Yes No
5. TARA CLUSTER TEACHER CORI? Yes No
6. BRENDAN LEWIS TEACHER CORI? Yes No
7. TRACEY FARHAM TEACHER CORI? Yes No

Costs of Admissions: \$ 49.00 PER PERSON Other Trip Costs: N/A

Payment Sources/plan: SENIOR CLASS DUES

Plan if trip covers lunchtime: FOOD PROVIDED AT SITE Contact made with _____ in food services.

Student Medical: how identified and plan to handle? WILL HAVE FIRST AID KIT FROM NURSE AND HAVE ON SITE FIRST AID

Special Ed & 504 student accommodations, how identified and handled? N/A

Transportation: Contact made with Transportation Dept. (772-1407): Yes No Trip Scheduled: Yes No

Contracted Transportation: Yes No District Transportation: Yes No Other:

Nurse: _____

FOR OFFICE USE

Approval: [Signature] 5/10/22 (Principal/Date)

Approved: Superintendent (any trip with costs, out-of state, and/or overnight)

Signature/Date