



February 6, 2023

Good evening,

Please find some updates from the district.

CELEBRATIONS

Please join us in congratulating Michael Kucheski, physical education teacher at Greenfield High School and our Athletic Director as well as Greenfield High School football coach, on being named to the Massachusetts Football Coach Hall of Fame.

We are pleased to celebrate Shannon Eaton, grade 6 English Language Arts teacher and Deborah Richerson, kindergarten teacher at Federal Street School for being selected as the Greenfield Public School Excellence in Teaching Award recipients for 2023. There will be a ceremony at the Log Cabin on April 26, 2023. Both winners will be able to bring family members and district representatives to celebrate with them that evening. Congratulations to both Shannon and Deb and we are very proud to have them serving the students of the Greenfield Public Schools.

Our Food Service Department has been awarded a grant through the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for \$145,332 to purchase a food truck. The food service budget was able to cover the variation in cost. We expect the district will be able to take delivery in the next few weeks. The goals of the truck are to increase meal participation, food security and access to local foods.

We are pleased to have training tomorrow night for our newly adopted Instructional Leadership Teams. This training is being provided by the Statewide System of Support (SSoS) team working with Greenfield; Tim Connor, Assistant Director, Pamela Plummer and Jennifer Scott. This year all of our schools will have ILTs and will receive ongoing support from SSoS. The stipends are being paid for through the Targeted Assistance Grant.

NEW COURSE OFFERINGS

We are pleased to share that a new course, Sustainability, has been approved at Greenfield High School. At this time, we have approved the course to determine interest and our decision to run the course based on the numbers of students who sign up during course selections this winter/spring.

STAFFING

We have begun scheduling interviews for our Director of Early Childhood position. Karin and I are doing preliminary interviews and then will engage a larger group including staff from AEL and other district administrators for second round interviews.

We have also begun review of the Director of Technology candidates. I expect that we will have conducted interviews prior to the next School Committee meeting.

GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE NURSING

I am pleased to share that we have nursing students from Greenfield Community College joining us as part of their pediatric clinical rotation. Student nurses will be at Greenfield High School, Greenfield Middle School,



Federal Street School and Newton School. They will be with us on Thursdays from February 2 through May 5, 2023.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE

As part of the Greenfield Public Schools Wellness Policy ADF, the district will have a Wellness Committee. We are pleased that we have our nurse leader, Melissa Bednarski, to chair the Committee in following the language of policy. Greta Schwachman, Food Service Director, will also serve on the Committee as the recording secretary. Information will be shared out tomorrow through my Parent Update, in the hope that we can have at least one member of the public to serve with us. The meetings will be scheduled through Melissa once the Committee members have been identified. A School Committee member will be asked to serve along with a school administrator and staff from the district. We look forward to the work from the Committee and we will share out as updates are available

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The surveys have been sent out to families and the community through the school and city communications. The surveys are on the district website and were translated into Spanish, Romanian, and Russian. Our translators are working to contact all families for whom English is not their primary language to determine if those families have been able to complete the survey.

As of January 30, we had 245 responses, all submitted electronically, with a few additional coming in. Our highest response rates were at Greenfield High School, Greenfield Middle School and Four Corners. Almost all respondents were parents or caregivers of current students. Mrs. Rehor and Mrs. Halpin will communicate out with families again about surveys in their building level communications and I have asked Mr. Morrison to work with his student representatives to Strategic Planning to help increase student participation. However, Dr. Houle did share that a 20% return rate is considered a positive rate of return so we are receiving a reasonable number of surveys back. The survey will be open until the February vacation.

BUDGET

The FY24 budget process is still underway. At this time, the final steps in the Superintendent's Budget creation are in process including a very detailed review of staff, building level requests, technology upgrades needed and allocation of grant funds.

A budget subcommittee meeting was held on Friday February 3, 2023 and the recording will be available through the GCTV YouTube channel with other School Committee recordings.

DISCIPLINE UPDATE

The Greenfield High School and Greenfield Middle School have been identified for the multiyear, Rethinking Discipline initiative through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). This designation was in response to discipline data submitted during the 2021-2022 school year and showed that we removed students of color and students with disabilities at a higher rate than other students. We are among 42 districts identified for this initiative across the Commonwealth. The process requires the district administrators to craft a plan aimed at reducing the rate of exclusionary discipline.

One item of importance is the change in student discipline laws that came into effect late in 2022. These provisions were included in a mental health law and directly impacted disciplinary practices in schools. The



Superintendent's Report
Greenfield School Committee Meeting

changes related to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71, section 37 H $\frac{3}{4}$ which now requires the administration to try alternative measures to suspension prior to using exclusionary discipline. There are exceptions to the

requirement for alternative measures including possession of weapons, possession/distribution of controlled substances or the provisions of section 37 H1/2 related to felony charges and convictions.

I have previously discussed changes the district is making to our response to negative behavior. Our Social Emotional Learning Curriculum and our work with staff to identify and implement best practices for all students in classrooms regarding routine and common behavioral expectations are Tier One (core) changes. We are also increasing and refining our use of Reset Rooms, which allow students to have a less stimulating environment or to use when they are dysregulated. We are utilizing alternative measures including after school detention, educational sessions with nursing or counselors or other similar strategies. We are also focusing on improved family communication for students demonstrating challenges to engage with them and hopefully improve outcomes. We also utilize our Equity and Community Connections Coordinator and Director of Behavioral Services to support staff and work with families.

ENROLLMENT

As discussed at the last meeting, included in your packet is the School Attending information. You can see the areas in which we had changes.

Sincerely,

Christine DeBarge, Ed.D
Superintendent