

The Public Schools of Brookline
School Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 26, 2018
Superintendent Report
Andrew J. Bott
Superintendent of Schools

The recent April school vacation means that my report to you this evening is quite short!

I visited classrooms with Lesley Ryan Miller at **Pierce School** on Wednesday, April 25. I also participated in the faculty meetings at both **Upper and Lower Devotion Schools** on Tuesday, April 24.

This morning, I had the pleasure of addressing the **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** at their monthly meeting. I appreciate that the Chamber carved time from their agenda to allow me to speak about the school district, our high academic achievement, and the tremendous support we enjoy from the town's business community.

Today I also joined the **Anti-Defamation League** in a presentation during the *Emerging Best Practices: Preventing and Addressing Bias-Based Incidents in Schools* conference for area educators. As you know, for the last two years we have partnered with the ADL to bring their World of Difference Peer Leadership Program to our schools. The ADL asked us to join them at today's conference so that we could highlight the impact of this program in our schools and share our experiences directly with school leaders from across the region. I would like to thank our school-based leaders and student representatives for joining me today:

Heath School

Kellee Terkla, Peer Training Program Advisor
Jean Hur and Molly Louison, Student Peer Leaders

Lawrence School

Zoe Kern, Peer Training Program Advisor
Gabe Grossman and Helen Ives, Student Peer Leaders

Lincoln School

Corey Clifford, Peer Training Program Advisor
Sasha Kalvert and Ru Mack, Student Peer Leaders

Pierce School

Kate Sullivan, Peer Training Program Advisor
Fer Caballero and Oliver Slayton, Student Peer Leaders

The World of Difference Peer Leadership Program emphasizes the potential of positive peer influence to transform the social norms in schools, using students as leaders to recognize and reject biased and prejudicial remarks and actions, support those who are targeted, and actively promote respect for human differences.

I was truly impressed at the level of maturity and awareness of our 7th and 8th grade student peer leaders and remain committed to the importance of this program in our district. We look forward to expanding this program to Baker, Devotion, Driscoll and Runkle Schools in the 2018-2019 school year.