

The Public Schools of Brookline
School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, May 29, 2019
Superintendent Report
Andrew J. Bott

Maimonides School Building: Listening Sessions for the Pierce School Community

As you know, the Maimonides School recently announced their intent to possibly lease one of the buildings on their Brookline campus. The building they may lease is located at 2 Clark Road, at the corner of Boylston Street. If the Public Schools of Brookline were to lease this building there are several ways that it might help to alleviate some of the overcrowding issues in the district, including helping to address space issues at Pierce School.

In order to hear directly from parents, guardians and staff members in the Pierce community about this important issue, we have scheduled two listening sessions next week. Both sessions will be held in the Pierce School Auditorium:

Tuesday, June 4 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

and

Thursday, June 6 from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

I shared the attached letter with the Pierce community today. I encourage everyone to attend or to contact me directly with their ideas and suggestions.

Police Chief for a Day

Each year, the Brookline Police Department sponsors an essay contest for 5th grade students. The student with the winning essay becomes Police Chief for a Day here in town. The police department reports that all of the essays that were submitted this year were fantastic, and that choosing one from among them was very difficult. I am happy to share the news that Pierce School 5th grader Zoe Galaburda, from Ms. Emily Adams' class, had the winning essay. The prompt for this year's essay was to identify a problem in Brookline and propose a solution that the police chief might use to solve it. Zoe's essay spoke about hate crimes directed at houses of worship and her solution is two-fold: increase police presence around houses of worship and focus on youth education programs to stop hate crimes before they are perpetrated. Zoe will be "sworn in" at 9am on Friday, June 7 in the Pierce amphitheater after which she will join Chief Lipson for a full morning of activities. The day will end with a luncheon in Zoe's honor at noon in the public safety building. Congratulations, Zoe!

Alfred Brownell to Speak with Lincoln School 8th Grade Students

School Committee members are invited to Lincoln School tomorrow – Thursday, May 30, at 1:30pm - to hear Alfred Brownell speak with Lincoln's 8th graders. Last month Mr. Brownell was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize, the world's most prestigious honor for grassroots environmental activists. He has devoted the last decade of his life to preserving Liberian rainforests and other natural resources through his non-profit law organization – Green Advocates International. He utilizes legal means to protect Liberia's natural resources against plundering by agricultural, logging and mining companies. Mr. Brownell is a Distinguished Scholar in Residence at the Northeastern

University School of Law and since January 2017 he has been a visiting scholar at Northeastern University's Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy.

School Visits and Community Events

On May 22, the *Pierce School* staged three *Memorial Day Assemblies* for their students. Educators Alison Manion, Anne Sheridan, and Amy Woogmaster, along with the middle school social studies teachers and the grade 3-5 classroom teachers, worked collaboratively to update Memorial Day lesson plans and prepare students for their grade level assembly; it was my pleasure to watch the grade 6-8 assembly. Students acted as the Masters of Ceremony at the assemblies, the middle school band played, the choruses sang, and many students not only shared poems and reflections, but they also taught the audience about Americans of color and the Women Air Force Service Pilots who have served our country. Additionally, current members of the U.S. Army participated and shared what Memorial Day means to them. Finally, there was a running slideshow of the relatives of Pierce families and staff who have served in the American military to help students connect with this important holiday.

Today, I was honored to participate in the ceremony to honor the *50th anniversary of the opening of the John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site* on Beals Street. The highlight of the program involved third grade students from the Coolidge Corner School, who have been engaged in a month long exploration of President Kennedy, being celebrated for their touching essays and poems.

Since my last report I joined principals in visiting classrooms at Baker School on May 20 and at Pierce School on May 28. I also joined Lincoln School educators at their faculty meeting on Tuesday afternoon, May 21. Finally, BHS Head of School Anthony Meyer and I joined the board of the BHS Innovation Fund at their strategic planning meeting on May 21.



Andrew J. Bott
Superintendent

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May 29, 2019

Dear Pierce School Community,

This spring, the Maimonides School announced that they are considering leasing one of the buildings on their Brookline campus. The building is located at 2 Clark Road, at the corner of Clark Road and Boylston Street. It is a 35,000 square foot building consisting of 16 classrooms, two outdoor play areas, underground parking, and multiple small learning spaces.

The possible lease of this building by the Public Schools of Brookline has the potential to alleviate some of the overcrowding that continues to plague our schools. Some options that we might consider for the space include classrooms for the Brookline Early Education Program, relocation of some district offices such as the Office of Student Affairs, and multiple possibilities for the Pierce School.

As we consider whether the 2 Clark Road building might be helpful in alleviating the space challenges at Pierce, an important first step is to engage in conversations with the Pierce community. To this end, the School Committee has scheduled two listening sessions so that we can hear directly from you about ways you believe this space could potentially serve Pierce. These listening sessions are scheduled for:

Tuesday, June 4, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Pierce School Auditorium
Thursday, June 6 from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. in the Pierce School Auditorium

The School Committee and I hope you can join us at one of these listening sessions and we look forward to your ideas and feedback.

If you have any questions prior to the meetings, or if you can't attend but wish to share your thoughts, please don't hesitate to email me at andrew_bott@psbma.org.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Bott
Superintendent