

The Public Schools of Brookline
School Committee Meeting of Thursday, June 7, 2018
Superintendent Report
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Superintendent of Schools

Brookline High School Graduation

On Sunday, June 3, Brookline High School graduated almost 500 students during a thoughtful and beautiful ceremony on Cypress Field. Congratulations to the Class of 2018! As Headmaster Anthony Meyer reminded us, when the Class of 2018 arrived as freshmen, they met on Cypress Field and were escorted, gauntlet style, into the quadrangle by faculty and staff to begin their academic journey at BHS. At graduation, the class met just outside of the quadrangle and reversed their course, passing once again through a gauntlet of faculty and staff as they marched out onto Cypress Field to complete their journey with us, receive their diplomas, and confidently step into their future. The 2018 graduation was a masterful celebration and it was an honor to participate.

Mission Possible? Project Based Learning at Upper Coolidge Corner School

On Tuesday, I was very happy to participate in *Mission Possible?*, a project based learning unit in Ms. Yorgey's 8th grade science classes at Upper CCS about colonizing other planets in our solar system. I was one of a panel of possible "investors", listening as student groups presented their proposals to us in a style similar to the television show Shark Tank. Each student group had researched, planned and created a suitable habitat for human life on their chosen planet and then they pitched to us – the potential investors – in order to fund their projects.

The students had done an incredible amount of work to prepare. Listening and interacting with them as they made their presentation – and as we peppered them with questions – was remarkable. The students skillfully answered our questions such as, "How will travel to your planet be facilitated?", "Provide details on how your budget will be spent", "What natural resources exist on your planet that can be utilized?", "As an investor, what will we see as a return?" and "What is your timeline for colonization?"

All of the 8th graders were well prepared, knowledgeable and incredibly eager to share their work. It was a pleasure to observe these students in action.

Police Chief for a Day: Emily Snyder, Brookline 5th Grader

Last year, the Brookline Police Department created the Chief for a Day Committee to host an essay contest for Brookline's 5th graders. The prompt for this year's essay was, "How would you resolve a bullying issue at your school?" The prize for the essay contest winner is to serve as Brookline Police Chief for a Day. The committee noted that they had many amazing essays this year and that choosing the winner was very difficult. After much debate, Emily Snyder, 5th grader in Ms. Baran's class at Upper Coolidge Corner School, was selected.

Emily served as Police Chief for a Day today, beginning with her swearing-in by Town Clerk Pat Ward in the Upper CCS Auditorium in front of all of her 5th grade peers. After spending the morning shadowing the Police Chief as he performed official duties, town officials and community members joined Emily for a luncheon in the public safety building. Emily's winning essay was outstanding and the Chief for a Day celebration organized by the Police Department is a great tribute to the close relationship that our schools share with the town's police officers. Congratulations, Emily!

Steps to Success Student Recognition Ceremony

I had the pleasure of attending the 2018 Steps to Success Student Recognition Ceremony on Tuesday evening at the Brookline Teen Center. This rousing celebration never disappoints; it is always a lively and memorable evening during which we recognize the adults who support the Steps program and honor the students who thrive because of it.

This year's honorees at the Steps to Success Recognition Ceremony included:

Hats Off Award	Lisa Brown
Parent Award	Misti Jaynes
Elementary Student Awards	Enrique Rodas, Jayden Mazara, Yulissa Burgos & Elizabeth Jaime Lopez
High School Student Awards	Bianca Yurnet, Marley Brown and Lily Saki
College Student Awards	Genti Spajia and Messoud Kerris

School Visits

Since our last School Committee meeting on May 31, I visited Lincoln School twice. On Monday morning, June 4, I observed classrooms with Principal Denitzio and on Tuesday afternoon, June 5, I joined the Lincoln faculty meeting.

FY19 Grant Awards from the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC)

The Public Schools of Brookline recently received notification of two grant awards for FY19, including:

The **Inclusive Preschool Learning Environments Grant** funds direct services that support preschool learning environments for preschool-aged children with and without disabilities in high quality, inclusive early education and care settings. The Brookline Early Education Program applied for and received a grant of \$67,168 for the FY19 school year to fund the salaries of four part-time paraprofessional staff/assistant teachers in four fully inclusive BEEP classrooms. All four paraprofessionals hold at least a college degree: two of these paraprofessionals hold a BA in Early Childhood Education and one paraprofessional holds a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education.

The **Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) Grant** will provide families with access and referral to locally-available comprehensive services and supports that strengthen families, promote optimal child development and bolster school readiness with the goal of assuring that every child enters school with prior learning opportunities. The Brookline Early Education Program applied for and received a grant of \$125,850 for the 2018-2019 school year. The CFCE funds: a project coordinator; two community resource outreach coordinators who also facilitate 2 weekly parent-child community playgroups held in public housing; and the Brookline Parent Child Home Program (one coordinator and 4 home visitors who facilitate early literacy visits for 20 High Risk families). Throughout the year CFCE also offers a range of year-long community activities such as story walks, Saturday STEM playgroups, and educational parent meetings all at no cost to families. The grant fully funds all educational supplies to support these community programs.