



PUBLIC SCHOOLS of BROOKLINE

Superintendent's Update - December 15, 2022



Agenda



- PSB Highlights
- Community Health Update
- Upcoming Celebrations and Observances
- Superintendent School Visits
- Spotlight on Excellence

Starting on Friday, December 2, the Office of Educational Equity is excited to extend the SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) program to Brookline parents, guardians, and caregivers.

SEED equips each person to connect our lives to one another and to society at large by acknowledging systems of power, oppression, and privilege. Seminars are designed to include personal reflection & testimony, listening to others' voices, and learn collectively from each others' perspectives and contexts.

PSB has already created school-specific and administration-specific SEED groups over the past few months. The SEED groups involve 10-15 participants, with seminars meeting once a month beginning in January 2023.



Media Credit: J. Uttaro

Launch of SEED Groups for PSB Parents



We are pleased to announce that Bob Thomas, PSB's Digital Learning Specialist, was named by MassCue as their Educator of the Month for December 2022!

Mr. Thomas' contributions to PSB have impacted nearly every student and staff member in the community. He has cultivated and managed most of the digital and online tools we use in our classrooms, such as SeeSaw, Canvas, JamBoard, and Learning Ally. In addition, as an Education Technology Specialist for the Driscoll School, Mr. Thomas helped pioneer the launch of Google Education accounts and Chromebooks for students - a model now implemented within the entirety of PSB itself.

Whether it's been his direct support to individuals or his tireless efforts to leverage our use of technology, Mr. Thomas' efforts have moved the needle on every aspect of PSB's Technology Vision. We are grateful for his continued expertise, patience, and thoughtfulness within our community!

Media Credit: B. Thomas

PSB's Bob Thomas named MassCUE Educator of the Month

**2022
METCO DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
CONFERENCE SAVE THE DATE**

December 2, 2022 Four Points by Sheraton Norwood



*"Strengthening the Social
Emotional and Academic
Health of Students of
Color, Through Self Care
and Trauma Informed
Practices"*

Registration opens October 17th, 2022

**Keynote Speaker: John King, Former
United States Secretary of Education**

The METCO Directors' Association held their Annual Educators Conference last Friday, December 2. John King Jr., former U.S. Secretary of Education, was the keynote speaker this year.

Theme for this year's conference focused on **strengthening the social-emotional and academic health** of students and staff of color self-care and trauma-informed practices.

Media Credit: J. Uttero

METCO Directors Conference

On Saturday, December 10, the METCO program hosted a showcase and meet-and-greet in Dorchester. Prospective families were invited to learn more about various community agencies and participating schools.

We were especially grateful to have Terrence, a 5th grade student at Ruffin Ridley, to support our recruiting efforts!



Media Credit: L. Guillory

METCO Showcase



Executive Committee Meeting
Alcove Restaurant
50 Lovejoy Wharf, Boston, MA

AGENDA

December 8, 2022
12:30PM

- I. Welcome
We will be joined by Commissioner Riley, Amrita Sahni (Deputy Chief of Staff), Iraida Alvarez (Chief of Staff) and Kinnon Foley (DESE Strategic Advisor).
- II. Present/Approve 2023 Legislative Platform (see attached platform approved by M.A.S.S. Legislative Committee)
- III. Update on 37 ¼ (amended legislation)
- IV. Update on MSBA and need for pothole account/supplemental budget
- V. Future of Education in MA
Strategic Plans/goals
Post pandemic and with the new administration beginning in January, is DESE and/or M.A.S.S. advancing any strategic planning for the Future of Education in Massachusetts. How might M.A.S.S. assist in its development of a position paper on testing and accountability.
- VI. Other Topics (Commissioner or E.C. Members)

- Interim Director of Special Education Posted
- Applications currently being vetted; anticipated start date for January 2023
- Specialists and clinicians continuing to provide exemplary services and programming

Deputy Superintendent of Student Services:

- Providing regulatory oversight and support; chairing of TEAM meetings as needed
- Providing on-site consultation provided on a daily basis
- Providing individual review and signing of all proposed Individual Education Programs (IEPs)

Over the past few weeks, PSB has seen an increase in upper respiratory illness in students and staff and people coming in sick. **Regardless of flu or COVID-19, we encourage individuals to stay home if sick and get vaccinated.**

During Thanksgiving Break, all students and staff receive 2 boxes of test kits for use over the holiday season. **We recommend that students and staff test on Monday night, January 2, 2023, after Winter Vacation, or any time that an individual is symptomatic.**

A COVID-19/Flu Vaccine Clinic on **Tuesday, December 20** at Brookline Town Hall from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Week of	# of Positive COVID-19 Cases
12/2 - 12/8	55
12/9 - 12/15	49
<i>Currently, we are aware of only one grade level at one PSB school having an increased pattern of 3 or more cases within a 10 day period.</i>	

PUBLIC SCHOOLS of BROOKLINE

December 2022

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

TU
1
Early Dismissal for Parent-Teacher Conferences (K-8)
K-8 students will be dismissed at 12:40 p.m.

W
7
Early Dismissal for Parent-Teacher Conferences (K-12)
K-12 students will be dismissed at 12:40 p.m.

F
23
Early Dismissal for Winter Break

- BEEP students dismissed at 11:30 a.m.
- K-8 students dismissed at 12:00 p.m.
- BHS students dismissed at 12:15 p.m.

M **T**
26 **27**
Schools Closed: Winter Break

W **T**
28 **29**
District Offices will also be closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 1 in observance of Christmas Day and New Year's Day respectively.

F **M**
30 **1**

www.brookline.k12.ma.us/calendar

Other Upcoming Observances

- **Anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting:** Wednesday, December 14
- **Hanukkah:** Sunday, December 18 to Monday, December 26
- **Las Posadas:** Friday, December 16 to Saturday, December 24
- **Winter Solstice:** Wednesday, December 21
- **Christmas Day:** Sunday, December 25
- **Kwanzaa:** Saturday, December 26 to Monday, January 1



- **Las Posadas:** *Friday, December 16 - Saturday, December 24*

Deriving from the Spanish word for lodging or accommodation (posada), this religious festival is primarily celebrated in Latin American countries, Mexico, and Spain. Las Posadas is celebrated in conjunction with the Christmas season, focusing on the Nativity and the birth of Jesus.

- **Hanukkah:** *Sunday, December 18 to Monday, December 26 (Category 3 holiday)*

The Jewish Festival of Rededication, also called the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day celebration that falls each year in December in the Gregorian calendar.

- **Kwanzaa:** *Monday, December 26 to Sunday, January 1 (Category 3 holiday)*

Kwanzaa is a 7-day celebration honoring African American culture and heritage in which each of the seven days is dedicated to a specific life principle.

Upcoming Celebrations and Observances



Media Credit: L. Guillory

Recently Completed	
Heath	Tuesday, 12/6
Lawrence	Wednesday, 12/7
Runkle	Friday, 12/9
Lincoln	Tuesday, 12/13
Driscoll	Thursday, 12/15
Upcoming	
Ridley	Friday, 12/16
BHS	Monday, 12/19
Pierce	Tuesday, 12/20

Superintendent School Visits



Media Credit: Design for Change

Spotlight on Excellence: Florida Ruffin Ridley School - *Design for Change*