



PUBLIC SCHOOLS of  
**BROOKLINE** 

# Superintendent's Update

April 11, 2024



# Strategic Planning Updates 2024-2027

## Our Mission

*To educate and inspire every student to lead a fulfilling life and make positive contributions to our world.*

## Our Vision

*The PSB provides every student with an extraordinary education, through enriching learning experiences and supportive community, so that they develop to their fullest potential.*




# Students First

## From the Office of Student Services:

PSB remains committed to establishing relationships with community partners who can increase mental health supports to students and families.

The Brookline Center is currently recruiting caregivers to participate in parents support groups.

The Public Schools of Brookline is also partnering with **Care Solace** to support the well-being of students, staff, and their family members. Care Solace is a confidential care coordination service that can help you quickly find mental health or substance use treatment options matched to your needs regardless of circumstance.



**the brookline center**  
for COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

### OUTPATIENT PARENTING PROGRAMS

The Brookline Center for Community Mental Health offers several groups to support parents and caregivers. See below for scheduling and payment information, and instructions on how to connect to these offerings.

**INSIDE PARENTING: A GROUP TO BRING OUT THE BEST IN PARENTS**

This group provides parents with an opportunity to examine how they parent their kids in light of how they were parented. What do you want to carry forward from your childhood? What do you want to leave behind? Come talk with others thinking through the same questions. This time-limited virtual group is a clinician service that is billed through insurance.

**Thursdays, 2-2:50 PM, starting April 2024 (10 weeks, Zoom)**  
Irene Sandell, LICSW (she/her)

**DROP-IN CAREGIVER OPEN SUPPORT GROUP**

This is an ongoing and open facilitated group with the mission to provide a space where caregivers can receive additional support through community connection, self-reflection, and the sharing of new ideas and perspectives. This group is open to current clients, and parents/caregivers of current clients who are youth and is billed through insurance.

**Thursdays, 1-1:50 PM (ongoing, Zoom)**  
Emmi Monos, LMFT (she/her)

**SPACE: SUPPORTIVE PARENTING OF ANXIOUS CHILDHOOD EMOTIONS**

SPACE is a parent-based treatment program for children and adolescents with anxiety, OCD, and related problems. SPACE helps parents practice skills of responding more supportively to their child's anxiety and changing their accommodations to their child's symptoms, ultimately supporting the child in reducing their experience of anxiety. This group is billed through insurance, and the self-pay rate (\$40) is available.

**Thursdays, 5:00 PM (10 weeks, In Person)**  
Rachael Hennessy-Crowell, LICSW (she/her)

## THE BROOKLINE CENTER

### Outpatient Parenting Programs

**CIRCLE OF SECURITY PARENTING (COSP)**

A parenting class designed to support caregivers in creating a secure relationship that meets the needs of their children. Caregivers will be able to understand their child's emotional world by learning to read their emotional needs, support their child's ability to successfully manage emotions, and enhance the development of their child's self-esteem. COSP honors caregivers' innate wisdom and desire for their child to be secure. While this program is designed for parents of young children (6 and under), parents of children of all ages may benefit.

**DMH FLEX OPTION**

If your child is engaged in any care at the Brookline Center, COSP may be free and requires their enrollment in the Center's DMH Flex program.

**Mondays, 3-3:50 PM (12 weeks, In Person)**  
Erin Wagner, LICSW (they/them)

**INSURANCE BILLED OPTION**

If your child is not engaged in services at the Brookline Center, COSP may be billed to the caregiver's insurance. The group self-pay rate (\$40) is also available.

**Tuesdays, 5-6:30 PM (8 weeks, In Person)**  
Emmi Monos, LMFT (she/her)  
Gabrielle Lee, LICSW, MPH (she/her)

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Interested in these programs, but have some questions about what options are best for your family?**



**Already receiving center services?** Let your child's provider(s) know of your interest or contact our Intake team directly at 617-860-2084 or using the QR code to the right.

**Not receiving center services?** Call our Intake Team at 617-860-2084, or use the QR code to the right to access the registration form.

**What to expect after completing a request for service form**

After receiving your request, space permitting, our intake team will contact you to schedule an initial session with a therapist leading the group. These sessions are billed to insurance. You and the therapist decide if the group fits your needs.

Note: All groups are projected to begin the week of April 23rd (Monday group will begin April 29), pending adequate enrollment.



# Students First



Cartwheel continues to be a trusted mental health partner to PSB as well and the partnership with Cartwheel will continue through next school year. Cartwheel is a trusted mental health partner and assists families and schools by helping to build multi-tiered systems of support to catch students before they fall.

Referrals to Cartwheel likely make sense in cases where:

- A student or family strongly prefers virtual counseling,
- A student likely requires short to moderate-term therapy (e.g., 3 to 6 months),
- A student has health insurance (except for Tri-Care), but available community partners do not accept it.



# Students First

Transition services for students with special needs requires specific action steps to ensure positive post secondary outcomes. To this end, Brookline High School has created an **Independent Living Center**, offering a simulated apartment space that allows students to practice skills needed for future independent living and decision making. Life skills vary from student to student, but preparatory skills include self-care activities, laundry skills, meal planning and preparation, room organization and maintenance, etc.



# Teaching and Learning



- In an effort to design middle school and elementary schedules that provide consistent time on learning, the Office of Teaching and Learning has completed guidance on time spent learning. The time allocations in this guidance document outline the minimum number of minutes that need spent on time and learning for all students by grade level band in order to comply with Massachusetts State Law. Massachusetts law requires at least 900 hours spent in structured learning activities.
- Time is a precious resource in our learning environments; we must allocate it wisely. For example, a 10-minute non-working snack results in 30 hours of lost learning time a year
- The time allocations in the guidance document identify the total minutes per day and week that should be used to develop teachers' weekly learning plans.

# Teaching and Learning

- Families were informed that the World Language courses for rising 6th graders were finalized.
- We are pleased to share that we were able to accommodate all students who registered in the Portal with their first choice of language.
- The WL Office placed those who didn't register in a course. This was done per each school's typical enrollment pattern and staffing.
- Families may view the finalized course by following the same process that they used to register.



# Teaching and Learning

The Office of Teaching and Learning held the second meeting of our **District Literacy Leadership Team.**

The purpose of this team is to:

- Create a culture of distributed leadership across a district.
- Provide oversight of the literacy initiative by ensuring that all activities are linked to district literacy plan.
- Utilize problem solving strategies, data analysis and expertise to review and edit literacy goals and activities throughout the school year.

The goal of this meeting was to:

- Analyze data from our Literacy Needs Assessment

# Community Connections

PSB hosted Erin Vanderveer from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Ms. Vanderveer and her team visited schools and programs this week, and met with staff and community members. Commendations and Areas for Improvement are expected for the upcoming year within 60 days.

We welcome Kelsey Nash to the Office of Student Services office manager role. Kelsey replaces Lynda, who retired this month. Kelsey has donned many hats working in Brookline for the last 7 years. She started out at the Sperber Education Center, working with K-8 Science and World Language. This was followed by a stint in the Unified Arts building at BHS. For the past 4 years, she has supported K-12 Visual Arts, Career and Tech Ed, and Nursing. We are excited to have her in the role in OSS.



# Community Connections

The Brookline Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) has two Co-Chair positions up for election this Spring. All voting members are eligible to run. If interested, please declare interest and eligibility by April 24th.

Elections will take place in May with results posted at the May 16th SEPAC meeting. New officers begin their new duties on July 1, 2024.

For any questions, please email **[info@BrooklineSEPAC.org](mailto:info@BrooklineSEPAC.org)**.



# Commitment to Educational Equity

## Equity Strategy in Progress

The Office of Educational Equity (OEE) is busy in the district, working on the Equity strategy of School Residencies, equity-focused cycle PD, and implementing Equity Leads.

- OEE is leading and supporting a comprehensive equity cycle at FRR. OEE has been and continues meeting with administrators, facilitating and supporting equity and belonging work with educators at grade-level meetings, supporting collaborative all-middle school work, observing instruction, and providing targeted coaching. Teachers have been provided collaborative feedback and access to tools in written and video exemplars.
- We have launched our Equity Lead application and have 13 applicants thus far. We intend to begin interviews after the April break. Equity leads will then participate in 10 hours of professional development in preparation for leading work across the district in the coming year.



# Commitment to Educational Equity

## Hiring and Retention Efforts

The Office of Educational Equity (OEE) has continued its efforts to support the hiring and retention of teachers of color through both internal and external partnerships:

The Brookline Educators for Educational Diversity (BEED) have partnered with the OEE to focus on those efforts in the following ways:

- BEED/OEE Retention Event in **March of 2024**. Forty-plus participants attended
- BEED/OEE in-district **Career Fair** slated for **May 2, 2024**

# Commitment to Educational Equity

The Public Schools of Brookline have partnered with the **Teachers Lounge Care in their Classroom Leaders of Color Fellowship (CLOC)**, a two-year cohort model for early career K-12 classroom teachers of color. The CLOC Fellowship's vision, curriculum, and program are intentionally designed by and for educators of color. They aim to develop, maintain, and improve the skills and tools to increase early career educators' input, impact, and income and to make early career education a more sustainable profession.

The CLOC fellowship will provide fellows:

- Community
- Development
- Mentorship and Coaching
- Coaches and mentors, with shared identities, will meet the specific needs of early career educators of color while developing, maintaining, and improving the skills and tools to avoid burnout
- CLOC is a free-to-district partnership; teachers only need to be released monthly



# Management and Capacity Building: Position Control

- For the FY25 budget, Audit and Finance has created a new **Position Control** coding system that will be used in MUNIS and in all hiring activities through HR and Finance. No hires will be approved without confirmation that a position exists with appropriate funding in the budget.
- For every staffed position in the school department budget, you can think about it as having two parts: a chair (the position) and a body (the person hired).
- When we create a budget using Position Control, we keep a precise count of the chairs. If the chair is presently occupied, we know the actual cost of the chair. If the chair is currently empty, we can estimate the cost pretty closely, but know that it may shift up or down depending on who eventually sits in it.
- Without Position Control, hiring managers tend to think in terms of replacing people, and lose track of how many chairs have actually been funded.

Position Number / Job Code	Position Control Number	Position FTE	Chair	Employee Number	Employee Name	Position Status	Employee FTE	Position Variance	Priority	Position Status
004	004	1.000	NA		VICKERT	Vacant	0.000	-1.000	2a/1a	
005	005	1.000	NA	0004	Higgins, Patricia	Full	0.000	-1.000	2a/1a	
006	006	1.000	NA		FLAHERTY	Vacant	0.000	-1.000	2a/1a	
007	007	1.000	NA		VICKERT	Vacant	0.000	-1.000	2a/1a	
008	008	0.500	NA		VICKERT	Vacant	0.000	-0.500	2a/1a	
009	009	1.000	NA	0040	Jankovic, Jody	Full	0.000	-1.000	2a/1a	
010	010	1.000	NA	0041	Quinn, Ashley	Full	1.000	0.000	2a/1a	
011	011	0.500	NA		VICKERT	Vacant	0.000	-0.500	2a/1a	
012	012	1.000	NA	1014	Baggett, Charal	Full	0.000	-1.000	2a/1a	
013	013	1.000	NA	0104	Lemon, Pat	Full	0.000	-1.000	2a/1a	
014	014	1.000	NA	0048	Lemon, Chris	Full	0.000	-1.000	2a/1a	
015	015	1.000	NA		FLAHERTY	Vacant	0.000	-1.000	2a/1a	
016	016	1.000	NA	0005	Wynn, Debra	Full	0.000	-1.000	2a/1a	
002	002	1.000	NA/08		FLAHERTY	Vacant	0.000	-1.000	2a/1a	
000	000	1.000	NA/08		FLAHERTY	Vacant	0.000	-1.000	2a/1a	
001	001	1.000	00		VICKERT	Vacant	0.000	-1.000	2a/1a	
***** Totals *****										
Chair	Budget	Hours FTE	Vacant FTEs	Vacant Positions	Total Price (Chair & Price FTE's)		Total Price To Budget Variance	Total FTE To Budget Variance		
NA	10,000	1,000	10,000	0	11,000		-1,000	-1,000	-10,000	
NA/08	0,000	0,000	0,000	0	0,000		-0,000	-0,000	-0,000	
NA	11,000	0,000	11,000	0	0,000		-11,000	-11,000	-11,000	
015	0,000	0,000	0,000	1	1,000		-0,000	-0,000	-0,000	
TOTAL	20,000	1,000	20,000	0	10,000		-11,000	-11,000	-20,000	

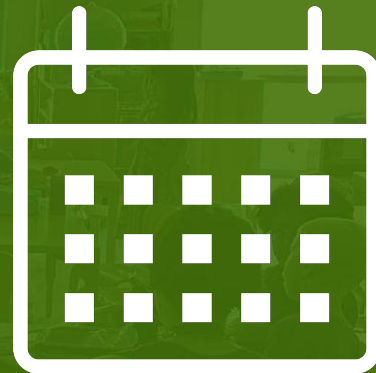
# Updated Last Day of School 2023-2024

The last day of school for the school year 2023-24 is  
**Tuesday, June 18.**

Students will be dismissed at 12 noon on June 18th.  
Cafeteria lunches will not be scheduled on the last day;  
grab-and-go lunches will be available.

## 8th Grade Graduation

Now that the last day of school has been established, we will work with school leaders to confirm 8th grade graduation dates. Principals are finalizing dates and will communicate that information in the coming weeks.



# Solar Eclipse Watch Parties

BHS and Hayes students gathered outside their school buildings to catch a glimpse of the solar eclipse on Monday afternoon.

While the Hayes school set up telescopes and sunspotters, BHS held a screening of NASA's solar eclipse broadcast.





# Driscoll Arts Equinox

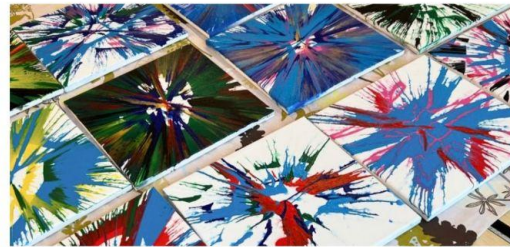
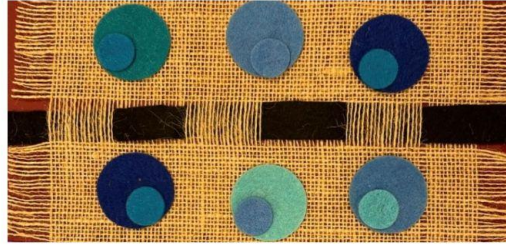
Last week, the Driscoll school celebrated one of its most beloved traditions – the Arts Equinox.

Arts Equinox is a celebration of art, where teachers, administrators, parents and students to take a break from the normal school day and explore their creative side.

Students experience a mix of hands-on projects, workshops, and performances, specially curated for individual grades. Past performers include drumming groups, dance troupes, storytellers, and theater companies, representing cultures from all over the world. Workshops for students, taught by Driscoll teachers, artistic parents and visiting artists, include paper making, photography, beatboxing, drumming, improv, flamenco dancing, hip-hop dancing, ceramics, sewing, and Shakespearean acting.

The kick-off for Arts Equinox has always been a huge all-school art exhibit. Ms. Olivia Reyelt and a team of dedicated parents make sure every student's work is represented in the show, and the whole community turns out to celebrate the joy of making art.

# Driscoll Arts Equinox



# Autism Awareness Month



April is Autism Awareness Month – a global initiative dedicated to promoting understanding and inclusion of the autism spectrum.

The **RISE (Reaching for Independence through Structured Education)** program at Hayes and Runkle, works towards meeting the needs of students with autism. These students receive academic teaching, social skills training, behavioral intervention and speech, occupational therapy and physical therapy as needed for each student.

An important focus of RISE is to increase independence with a variety of skills including daily living, social skills, behavior management, communication, and executive functioning.



# BHS LGBTQ Day of Dialogue

Wednesday, April 3 was LGBTQ Day of Dialogue at Brookline High School. The day was dedicated to hearing the stories of LGBTQ students and staff, and exploring issues related to the queer community today.



# BHS Art Exhibit – ‘Learning By Hand’

The Public Library of Brookline's Brookline Village location is holding an art exhibit featuring artwork by BHS students.

The exhibit, called *Learning By Hand*, will showcase work created by students in Ceramics, Metals, Engineering and other classes in Brookline High School's Unified Arts building.

*Learning By Hand* will run through the end of the month.

**LEARNING BY HAND**


Work from students in the Unified Arts Building at Brookline High School at the


**Brookline Public Library**

Brookline Village Location

on view starting Friday, April 5th, and running through the end of the month.

hollow-formed ring by Zeke Kassen, BHS





ceramic sculpture by Jamie Hines

# Superintendent's School Visits

## Recently Completed

BHS	Tuesday, April 2
Pierce	Friday, April 5
Hayes	Monday, April 8
BEEP	Tuesday, April 9

## Upcoming

FRR	Monday, April 22
Baker	Tuesday, April 23
Lincoln	Wednesday, April 24
Runkle	Thursday, April 25
Lawrence	Friday, April 26
Pierce	Friday, April 26





PUBLIC SCHOOLS of  
**BROOKLINE** 

# Spotlight on Excellence



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE



## UNIFIED SPORTS AT BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL

April 11th - School Committee - Spotlight



# What are Unified Sports?



- Students with and without disabilities participate in a variety of fitness and sports activities alongside one another.
  - *Examples: Basketball, Track & Field, Bocce, Fitness*
- Interscholastic Unified Sports is a school athletics/activities program that is co-supported by the State Special Olympics Program (SOMA) and the State High School Athletic/Activities Association (MIAA).





Unified Basketball  
First ever game  
Buzzer beater win!  
October 10, 2023

# Guidelines for Unified Sports



- Teams are administered and supported in a **similar fashion as other interscholastic sports teams**.
- Teams are comprised of approximately **equal number of athletes and partners**.
- In addition to participation, programs provide **genuine competition experiences** with place of finish results.
- All teammates are **meaningfully involved** in training and competitions and have the opportunity to contribute.
- Teams compete against other Interscholastic Unified Sports school teams using a consistent set of **official Unified Sports rules**.





# Unified Sports at BHS – Rollout Plan



Three year rollout of Unified Sports across all BHS Athletic three seasons:

- Successful pilot of Unified Basketball - Fall 2023
- Add Unified Track & Field - Spring 2025
- Add Unified Bocce - Winter 2025-26

**Fall**

Basketball

**Winter**

Bocce

**Spring**

Track & Field

# Role of Unified Sports



By bringing people together with and without disabilities, as teammates and competitors, on the field of play, Unified Sports breaks down the walls of social exclusion enabling all participants to gain a new appreciation for one another, dispel fear, misperceptions and low expectations, develop friendships and pave the way for broader social inclusion in the community

# Everyone is a Warrior – Value of Belonging

