

The Public Schools of Brookline
School Committee Meeting of Thursday, October 18, 2018
Superintendent Report
Andrew J. Bott
Superintendent of Schools

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Coolidge Corner School

Despite the dreary weather, we held a cheerful ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, October 13 to celebrate the official re-opening of the Coolidge Corner School. The ceremony was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the many elected officials, town and school staff, parents, and neighbors who worked together to successfully complete this project.

We were pleased to welcome Massachusetts State Treasurer and Massachusetts School Building Authority Chair Deborah Goldberg, members of the Brookline Select Board, School Committee and Building Commission, and representatives of the CCS Building Committee to this special event. Select Board member Nancy Heller spoke about the Coolidge Corner School spirit and the school's humble origins. The group was also given a personal tour of the school from CCS co-principals Jennifer Buller and Dave O'Hara.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, the Coolidge Corner School PTO sponsored Fallcoming, a day of fun activities throughout the school to showcase our beautiful new building and all of the amazing teaching and learning happening in the new space.

Anti-Defamation League Peer Leader Training: Baker, Coolidge Corner, Driscoll and Runkle

As you will recall, during the 2016-2017 school year the district embarked on a partnership with the Anti-Defamation League to introduce their World of Difference Peer Training Program to Brookline High School. The rollout of the peer training program at BHS was very successful, and prompted us to consider expanding the training to middle school students.

We did just that, and expanded the peer leader training to four of our K-8 school during the 2017-2018 year (Heath, Lawrence, Lincoln and Pierce).

This year, I am pleased to announce that we are completing our district-wide peer leader training by extending the program to 7th and 8th grade students at Baker, Coolidge Corner, Driscoll and Runkle Schools. I want to acknowledge the efforts of the school based teacher leaders in making this important work possible: Katy Sazama at Baker; Scott Newman at CCS; Maurene Doherty at Driscoll; and Rebecca Sneider at Runkle. These teacher leaders participated in the ADL's Educator Institute over the summer to prepare them for this important role. These teacher leaders, with the active support of their principals, are a vital element in the program's success.

One cohort (15 students from Baker and 15 students from Runkle) will participate in training with an ADL facilitator in space provided to us by Brookline Interactive Group in the Unified Arts Building on Tappan Street. The second cohort (15 students from CCS and 15 students from Driscoll) will participate in the training at space offered to us by Temple Ohabei Shalom on Beacon Street. Each cohort participates in 4 days of training, starting in November and concluding in January.

Attached is a copy of the letter I sent to families at Baker, Coolidge Corner, Driscoll and Runkle Schools last week announcing the program.

Restorative Justice in the Public Schools of Brookline

The district's work in rolling out restorative practices is off to a strong start. Our first year is focused primarily on foundational education to ensure that we establish a common understanding about what restorative justice means, and how to incorporate restorative practices to build community and improve day-to-day interactions between adults and young people. We will build on this foundation in the coming years with more specific school-based professional learning.

To this end principals, high school deans, and many central office administrators attended a training in July followed by a second training in August which was attended by many vice principals and high school educators. This month we currently have two trainings scheduled: one for all the school counseling staff and the other for vice principals and school educators.

While our first year emphasis is on the foundational education of restorative practices and is designed to build connections and relationships, Brookline High School opted to be an early adopter site. Other schools, such as Lincoln, have already begun sending their staff to training. The principals and staff that attended the July and August trainings have started using the skills learned to begin the important work of solidifying relationships among adults and are applying them in practice in various ways including faculty meetings and teacher team meetings.

Generous funding from the Brookline Education Foundation is allowing us to accelerate the number of training opportunities and provide specific additional support to the large number of staff at Brookline High School. Additionally, BEF funding is allowing us to retain key consulting support from the Suffolk University Center for Restorative Justice to help ensure a thoughtful and sustainable rollout.

In addition to the trainings, the district has scheduled community education sessions starting next week through early February. These sessions are open to district staff, families, students, and the public so that many stakeholders have a chance to learn about restorative justice. One education session is scheduled at each school building from 6:00 to 7:30pm, along with two additional sessions that will be held at Town Hall and the Public Library.

The complete schedule of these meetings is below:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, 10/24/18 | Town Hall, School Committee Room |
| Tuesday, 11/6/18 | Driscoll School |
| Tuesday, 11/13/18 | Baker School |
| Tuesday, 11/20/18 | Brookline Main Library, Hunneman Hall |
| Tuesday, 12/4/18 | Lincoln School |
| Wednesday, 12/5/18 | BEEP at Town Hall, Room 103 |
| Wednesday, 12/12/18 | Lawrence School |
| Tuesday, 1/15/19 | Coolidge Corner School |
| Tuesday, 1/22/19 | Heath School |
| Tuesday, 1/29/19 | Runkle School |
| Tuesday, 2/5/19 | Pierce School |
| Wednesday, 2/6/19 | Brookline High School |

Massachusetts School Building Authority Senior Study Site Visit

We were pleased to host MSBA staff and architects at the Pierce School on October 9 for a Senior Study Site Visit. As part of the due diligence review phase of the MSBA Statement of Interest process, the visit provided the MSBA with the opportunity to learn about our goals for the project, observe deficiencies in the

current building, and directly evaluate how the condition of the facility is affecting the delivery of our educational program.

I want to thank Pierce Principal Lesley Ryan Miller and Vice Principal Jamie Yadoff for their work to ensure that we were so well prepared for this important meeting. I would also like to thank Ray Masak who joined the meeting to represent the Building Department.

The MSBA is expected to vote at either their December or January board meeting on which communities will be invited into the Eligibility Period, which is the next step in the process.

Student Panel with English Learner Students from Coolidge Corner School

On October 17, several town officials joined me in the Select Board Hearing Room to participate in a panel with 14 English Learner students from Driscoll School. Organized by ELE teacher Jody Curran, the panel answered many interesting questions posed by the grade 3-5 students, ranging from *How many fires does the Brookline Fire Department respond to each year?*, to *How many books are housed in the Brookline Public Library?*, to *Is it hard to keep track of everything happening in Town?*

I would like to thank Town Administrator Mel Kleckner, Police Chief Andy Lipson, Library Director Sara Slymon, Deputy Fire Chief Owen Thompson, and Brookline Police Officers Katie McCabe, Kaitlin Conneely, and Gustavio Mady, Jr. for taking the time from their busy schedules to participate and answer the student's questions.

Brookline Education Foundation's Robert I. Sperber Award

It was my pleasure to be able to participate in the Brookline Education Foundation award ceremony this afternoon and introduce the recipient of this 2018 Robert I. Sperber Award: Janet MacNeil, former PreK-8 Science Coordinator. Janet served in the Public Schools of Brookline for 12 years, during which she championed science teaching and learning across the district. My full remarks from today's event are attached.

School Visits

Since the last School Committee meeting, I have enjoyed extended visits at the following schools:

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Heath School | October 5 |
| Lawrence School | October 17 |
| Coolidge Corner School | October 18 |

I also attended the Lawrence faculty meeting on Tuesday, October 9.

Meetings with Parents and PTOs

Attached please find the schedule of my parent meetings at each school, generously hosted by the school PTOs. A few of these meetings are still in the process of being finalized. I look forward to meeting with parents in each school over the next few months.



The Public Schools of Brookline

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Brookline, Massachusetts 02445

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Andrew J. Bott
Superintendent

October 12, 2018

Dear Families,

During the 2016-2017 school year, the Public Schools of Brookline and Brookline High School partnered with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to bring their World of Difference Peer Training Program to BHS. Our partnership with the ADL is one way that the Public Schools of Brookline supports students as they build and practice the leadership skills needed to be upstanders in our schools, our community, and our society. The ADL describes this program as follows:

The World of Difference Peer Training Program prepares young people to use the positive power of peer influence to motivate other students to reflect upon stereotypes and assumptions and take action against prejudice and bigotry in their schools and communities. Young people learn how to assume leadership roles in efforts to create respectful and inclusive schools and communities. Peer trainers learn how to effectively respond when they hear racial slurs, name-calling, and put downs in the hallways, lunchrooms and classrooms of their schools, and develop the skills to lead interactive discussions and workshops for their peers and younger students.

Our BHS student team was led by Associate Dean and Special Education teacher Brendan Kobus and Social Studies teacher and BHS Advisory teacher leader Jen Martin. This team of BHS peer leaders now serves to both support and strengthen the already caring environment that exists at BHS.

As the team of BHS peer leaders were trained two years ago, it became clear that expanding this work to our K-8 schools would serve to strengthen individual schools as well as the broader Brookline community. Last year we embarked on the first phase of the K-8 work by training teams of peer leaders at Heath, Lawrence, Lincoln and Pierce schools. Over the course of four days, a group of 15 students from each of the four schools came together as peer leaders to participate in the World of Difference Program. The program was facilitated by ADL trainers and led by teachers from the participating schools.

This year we are completing our district-wide training by extending this opportunity to Baker, Coolidge Corner, Driscoll and Runkle schools. Students in grades 7 and 8 from these four new schools who are interested in becoming peer leaders must complete an application. You will soon receive detailed information from your school's teacher leader regarding the program and the application process.

I want to thank Brendan Kobus, Jen Martin and BHS Headmaster Anthony Meyer for launching this work at BHS two years ago, and I want to thank Kellee Terkla, Zoe Kern, Corey Clifford and Kate Sullivan, along with their school principals, for bringing this invaluable partnership to our K-8 schools last year. Lastly, I want to thank Maurene Doherty, Scott Newman, Katy Sazama and Rebecca Sneider, and their principals, for leading this important work this year at Baker, Coolidge Corner, Driscoll and Runkle schools.

Our partnership with the ADL will help our students develop the skills and empathy that are the cornerstones of our public schools' values. When this year's training is complete, we will have trained approximately 150 students as peer leaders. In future years, we will continue training new cohorts of peer leaders, ensuring a critical mass of students who can serve as leaders in all of our schools.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Bott
Superintendent

Brookline Education Foundation
Robert I. Sperber Award Ceremony

October 18, 2018

Remarks of School Superintendent Andrew J. Bott

IT IS MY PLEASURE, THIS AFTERNOON, TO BE ABLE TO INTRODUCE THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2018 ROBERT I. SPERBER AWARD, JANET MACNEIL.

BEFORE JANET ACCEPTS HER AWARD I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO GIVE YOU JUST A SMALL SENSE OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS SHE MADE TO OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE LASTING IMPACT SHE LEFT IN OUR PRE-K TO 8 SCIENCE DEPARTMENT.

JANET STARTED MAKING HER MARK IN BROOKLINE BACK IN 2006, WHEN SHE WAS HIRED AS THE INTERIM PRE-K-8 SCIENCE COORDINATOR FOR THE DISTRICT. IN THE ENSUING 12 YEARS SHE WAS A STALWART CHAMPION FOR SCIENCE TEACHING AND LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOMS, DEVOTED TO SUPPORTING OUR TEACHERS AND PASSIONATE ABOUT HANDS-ON, INQUIRY BASED LEARNING FOR OUR STUDENTS.

TEACHERS FROM ACROSS THE DISTRICT READILY ATTEST TO JANET'S SKILLS AND DEDICATION.

FIRST GRADE TEACHER LAURA RICHARDSON DESCRIBES IT BEST WHEN SHE SAYS THAT, AS A SCIENCE COORDINATOR AND AS A SCIENCE EDUCATOR, JANET IS SECOND TO NONE. HER WORK CREATING ENGAGING SCIENCE UNITS FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS - THAT WERE BOTH INSTANTLY USABLE AND YET AMAZINGLY COMPREHENSIVE - IS JUST ONE OF THE MANY WAYS THAT JANET STANDS OUT AMONG HER PEERS.

RUNKLE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN TERESA GALLO-TOTH APTLY NOTES THAT JANET IS A SCHOOL LIBRARIAN'S "BFF"! WHEN TERESA SHARED A NEWLY PUBLISHED BOOK WITH HER, JANET IMMEDIATELY SAW THE CONNECTIONS THAT COULD BE MADE TO THE K-2 SCIENCE JOURNALING UNIT AND DIDN'T HESITATE TO INCORPORATE IT INTO THE CURRICULUM. THIS MASTERY OF COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP, COUPLED WITH JANET'S HERCULEAN ABILITY TO MAXIMIZE SCIENCE RESOURCES FOR THE CLASSROOM, ARE WHAT MAKE TERESA DESCRIBE JANET AS "THE BEST OF THE BEST".

JANET'S CURIOSITY AS A SCIENCE EDUCATOR AND A LIFELONG LEARNER WAS A MODEL FOR TEACHERS HERE IN BROOKLINE. KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS TANYA PARIS, LAUREN KELLY AND EOWYN DALY NOTE THAT JANET'S EXCITEMENT ABOUT SCIENCE EDUCATION IS CONTAGIOUS,

EMPOWERING BOTH TEACHERS - AND THEIR STUDENTS - TO SEE THEMSELVES AS SCIENTISTS. HER ENCOURAGING WORDS TO “JUST TRY IT” RESONATED WITH OUR TEACHERS AS NEW CURRICULUM PIECES WERE INTRODUCED AND EXPLORED. JANET’S ENTHUSIASM AND GUIDANCE ALLOWED TEACHERS, AND THEN THEIR STUDENTS, TO EXPLORE OUR SCIENCE CURRICULUM IN A HANDS-ON, MEANINGFUL WAY.

AS THE EDUCATIONAL LEADER OF OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHERS, JANET’S MONTHLY CURRICULUM MEETINGS WERE PACKED WITH USEFUL INFORMATION AND HELPFUL GUIDANCE. LINCOLN SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER SUE ZOBEL REMARKED THAT THERE WASN’T A SCIENCE DEPARTMENT STAFF MEETING WHERE SHE DIDN’T WALK AWAY WITH A NEW IDEA, SKILL OR INFUSION OF HOPE. TO VETERAN EDUCATORS HERE IN THE DISTRICT, JANET WAS A VITAL SOURCE OF ENERGY, CHALLENGE AND RENEWAL.

DURING HER TIME IN BROOKLINE, JANET WORKED CLOSELY WITH OUR EDUCATORS TO RESHAPE THE PREK-8 SCIENCE CURRICULUM, CRAFTING ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS AND ENSURING THAT EACH SCIENCE UNIT MET STATE AND NATIONAL SCIENCE STANDARDS. HER EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF SCIENCE EDUCATION ALSO EXTENDED BEYOND BROOKLINE. JANET SERVED ON THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION’S CURRICULUM REVIEW FRAMEWORK PANEL, AS WELL AS THE MCAS ASSESSMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. AND, SHE HAS BEEN A LEADER WITHIN THE NATIONAL SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION.

DURING HER TENURE IN BROOKLINE, JANET ALWAYS SOUGHT TO BE INNOVATIVE AND CUTTING EDGE, WITH A DEEP BELIEF IN THE ROLE OF TEACHERS AS LEADERS. ONE OF THE WAYS IN WHICH SHE BROUGHT INNOVATION TO THE DISTRICT WAS THROUGH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. WORKING WITH BROOKLINE EDUCATORS MARK GOLDNER AND MELISSA LONDON, JANET DEVELOPED A GRADUATE LEVEL COURSE FOR BROOKLINE TEACHERS FOCUSED ON SCIENCE AND LITERACY, PRESENTED THAT WORK TO THE NATIONAL SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE AND ULTIMATELY COLLABORATED WITH MARK AND MELISSA TO WRITE A BOOK ABOUT THEIR EFFORTS TITLED, “THE STORIES OF SCIENCE: INTEGRATING READING, WRITING, SPEAKING AND LISTENING INTO SCIENCE INSTRUCTION”.

AS VICKI MILSTEIN SAYS, “THERE IS ALWAYS A SEAT AT THE SCIENCE TABLE WHEN JANET IS IN CHARGE. JANET EMBODIES THE ASPECTS OF ADMINISTRATION THAT WE VALUE MOST: A LOVE OF LEARNING, OF THE PROFESSION, AND FOR THE PEOPLE WHO WORK IN IT.”

I AM VERY HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT TO YOU THE 2018 ROBERT I. SPERBER AWARD RECIPIENT, JANET MACNEIL.

**Public Schools of Brookline
Superintendent/Parent-PTO Meetings
2018-2019**

| SCHOOL: | DATE: | TIME: | ROOM: |
|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Baker School | | | |
| Coolidge Corner School | Friday, November 30, 2018 | 8:15am | Cafeteria |
| Driscoll School | | | |
| Heath School | Friday, January 4, 2019 | 8:00am | TBD |
| Lawrence School | Tuesday, February 26, 2019 | 7:00pm | Library |
| Lincoln School | Friday, November 2, 2018 | 8:15am | Library |
| Pierce School | | | |
| Runkle School | Friday, December 7, 2018 | 8:15am | TBD |
| BHS | Tuesday, October 30, 2018 | 7:00pm | MLK Room |

| GROUP: | DATE: | TIME: | LOCATION: |
|---------------|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| SEPAC | | | |
| METCO | Thursday, January 24, 2019 | 6:00-8:00pm | TBD |
| BEF | Monday, October 15 | 6:30pm | 45 Westbourne Terrace |