

The Public Schools of Brookline
School Committee Meeting of Thursday, March 28, 2019
Superintendent Report
Andrew J. Bott

New Principals at Lawrence and Coolidge Corner Schools

Since our last meeting on March 14, I announced the appointment of a permanent principal at both Lawrence and Coolidge Corner Schools.

On Friday, March 15, I announced that Monica Crowley has been appointed the permanent principal of the Lawrence School. I met with the Lawrence staff on that Friday afternoon and then shared the attached letter with the entire Lawrence community. Mrs. Crowley began working in Brookline in 2008, serving as vice principal of the Lawrence School from 2008 through 2014. She then served as principal of the Upper Devotion School from 2014 through 2018. This year she has been serving as the interim principal at Lawrence. Mrs. Crowley is an outstanding administrator with a track record of collaborative leadership and a proven commitment to the Lawrence School community.

Yesterday I met with the staff at the Coolidge Corner School to share the announcement that I have appointed Mrs. Jennifer Buller as the next principal of CCS. The attached letter was sent to all CCS families and staff on Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Buller has been working in Brookline since 2006. She spent eight years teaching a range of grades at Heath School before becoming vice principal at Coolidge Corner School in 2014. This past year, Mrs. Buller has been serving as interim co-principal of CCS. Mrs. Buller has a track record of successfully guiding the CCS community through several critical transitions, including the temporary relocation of the elementary grades to the 6-story former nursing home on Webster Street, the design and renovation process for the new building on Harvard Street, followed by the successful move back to the new building. Mrs. Buller has advocated for the CCS community at every juncture, and her dedication to the school is unwavering.

We are extraordinarily lucky to have such experienced educational leaders at the helm of both Lawrence and Coolidge Corner Schools.

Brookline High School's Old Lincoln School (OLS) Campus

We hosted three very well-attended meetings for the families of current 7th and 8th grade students to share information about the planned use of the Old Lincoln School (OLS). As you know, the OLS campus will be used for 9th graders in the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years during the BHS construction project. These informative sessions were held at Pierce, Coolidge Corner and Baker Schools and were very well received by the parents, guardians and students who attended.

I would like to thank Head of School Anthony Meyer and Assistant Head of School Hal Mason and their team, including Deans Lisa Gilbert-Smith, Brian Poon, and Jenee Uttaro, Associate Dean Brendan Kobus, and Special Education Director Wendy Ryder, for preparing such an informative presentation, and reassuringly answering the many questions posed by parents about this plan.

Diversity Recruitment Efforts

As part of our renewed focus on diversity hiring, several members of our leadership team have participated in job fairs in the Greater Boston area. Lesley University, the Teachers' Lounge (host of a series of monthly events for educators of color in Greater Boston), the Massachusetts Partners for Diversity in Education, and the Greater Boston School Human Resource Network have all invited us to participate in their recent job fairs. PSB staff including Human Resources Director Lisa Richardson, Deputy Superintendent Nicole Gittens, and BHS Dean of Faculty Jenee Uttaro attended and report that we had interest from many promising candidates. Ms. Richardson has begun the process of screening candidates and sharing their resumes with hiring managers in the district. We are optimistic that our continued efforts will be successful and result in more educators of color in the Public Schools of Brookline.

School Visits and Events

Since my last report, I had the opportunity to visit many classrooms across the district, including:

- March 18 Brookline High School
- March 20 Lincoln School
- March 22 Pierce School
- March 25 Driscoll School
- March 27 Baker School
- March 28 Heath School

In addition, I was pleased to be able to watch two performances on March 15, including the kindergarten play at Heath School and the middle school play at Baker School. I can attest that we have many talented performers across the district!

On Thursday evening, March 21, I had the honor of joining the Brookline Commission for Women (BCW) to celebrate Brookline's Woman of the Year: BHS teacher Lihua Shorter. Mrs. Shorter has devoted over 20 years to the students at Brookline High School and works tirelessly to foster the Asian American community at BHS. As one parent noted, Mrs. Shorter's influence extends well beyond the walls of her classroom – she is a trusted resource to the entire Brookline community. The BCW also announced the winners of their annual essay contest, "A Woman Who Inspires Me". First, second and third place essay winners from 5th-8th graders were announced and the students shared their moving essays with us. Congratulations to Mrs. Shorter and all of the essay winners!